





THE
BOTANIST & PHYSICIAN:
CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PRINCIPAL ACTIVE
MEDICINAL PLANTS
FOUND IN THE
MIDDLE AND NORTHERN STATES
OF
AMERICA,
WITH
DIRECTIONS
RELATIVE TO THEIR
PREPARATION, ADMINISTRATION & USE
IN THE
CURE OF DISEASES:
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN OUTLINE
OF THE
 LINNÆAN SYSTEM OF BOTANY.
INTENDED AS AN
INTRODUCTION AND GLOSSARY
TO THE WORK:
ALL DESIGNED FOR THE
USE OF FAMILIES
AND THE
YOUNG STUDENT
IN BOTANY.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER."

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PREFACE.

There is nothing, perhaps, better calculated to elevate the mind, inform the understanding, and lead from the paths of vice and folly to virtue, wisdom, and usefulness, than the study of the works of God in nature, and what are now called the Natural Sciences—especially that branch of those sciences denominated Botany, or the Study of the Vegetable Kingdom. And there is, perhaps, no branch of natural science, the study of which will be found more pleasant, healthy, and useful, than this ; for who can be insensible to the pleasure of rambling from hill to dale, and from streamlet to streamlet; over dasied meads and flowery lawns; beneath the thick foliage of the forest boughs; up the steep precipices, and through the dark recesses of the distant mountain;—“where,” in the language of Montgomery,

“A tyrant never tred,
“Where a slave was never known,
“But where nature worships God,
“In the wilderness alone,”

and meeting at every turn he makes some beautiful production of the vegetable kingdom with whose sweets, habits, and virtues he is well acquainted, or is endeavoring to become so? And

who, again I would ask, can be insensible and blind to the propriety and advantage of acquiring a knowledge of the properties of the various plants which beautify our landscapes, and which a kind Providence has bestowed upon us, and decreed, when properly used, should alleviate the pains and cure the diseases of the human system, or in some other way contribute to the comforts of mortals?

The student in Botany enters upon a wide and extended field, and he must view with delight the beautiful diversity of nature before him. He beholds the earth covered, as with a carpet, with tender herbs, thickly clad with green leaves, and crowned with numerous variegated flowers, whose odour and beauty charm the eye and regale the senses. He visits the hedge and the copse wood, which consist of shrubs and under-shrubs, and alive with innumerable feathered quiresters, all “prodigal of harmony.” He enters the grove, and surveys the grandeur of the forest trees—the robust *Oak*—the hardy *Elm*—and the towering *Pine*—whilst from every bough thousands of feathered songsters warble their melodious notes in sweet confusion. Oh, how glorious a prospect! Oh, how magnificent a scene! How well calculated to lead the soul to the contemplation of Him,

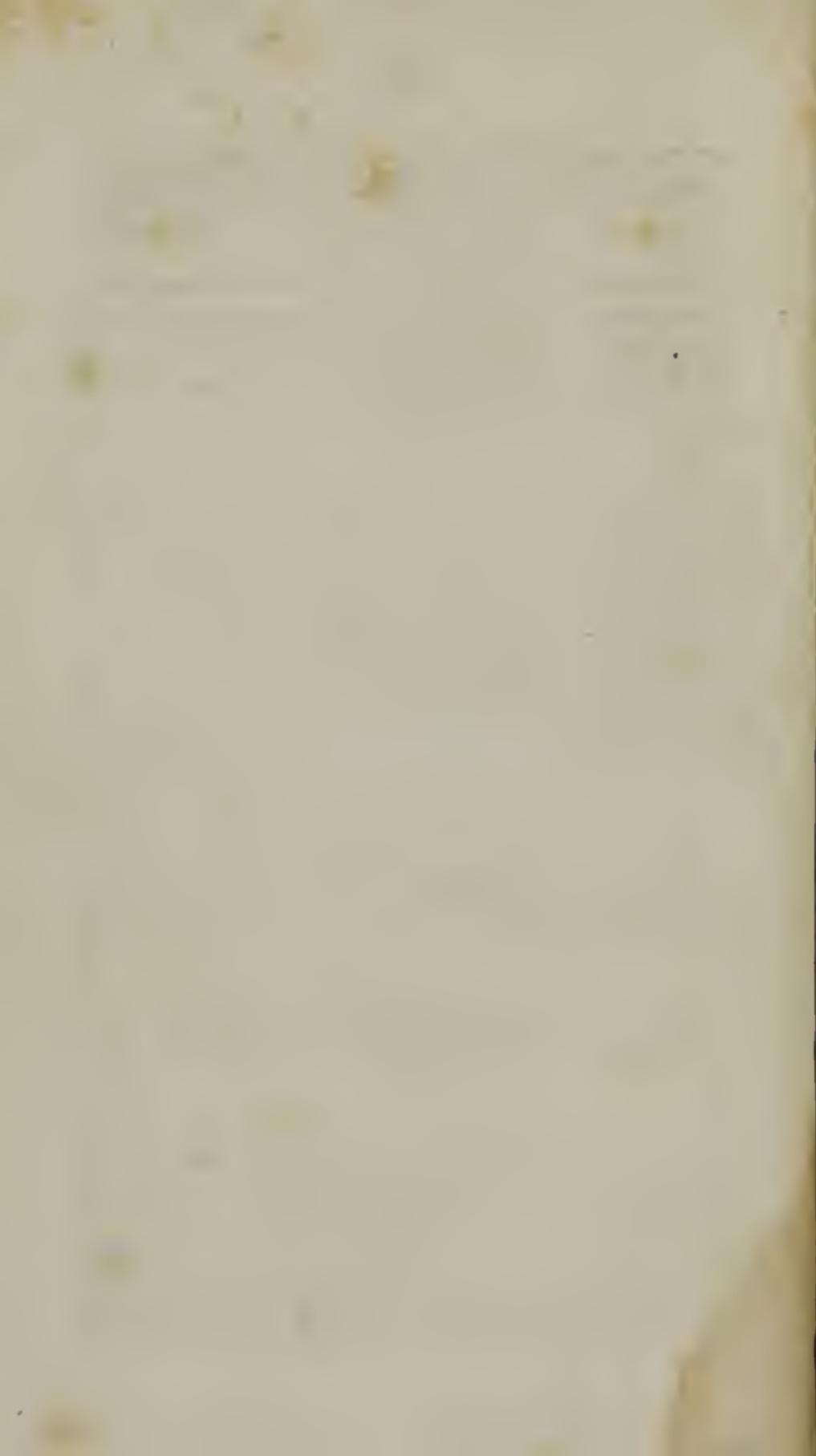
“Whose presence fills—whose sun elates—
“Whose hand perfumes, and whose pencil paints,
“All this innumerable colored scene of things.”

This work, designed more particularly for the use of families and the young student in Botany, contains a description of five exotic and cultivated plants, and of seventy-seven indigenous, or native.

The botanical terms which are made use of in this work will be found explained in the outline

of Botany prefixed to the volume. The medical terms used will be found explained on the pages which immediately follow the outline of Botany.

All the plants introduced into this work are systematically arranged in their proper classes and orders, according to the Linnæan System of Botany, and the botanical (that is) generic and specific names of each is given.



A SHORT OUTLINE OF THE LINNÆAN SYSTEM OF BOTANY.

The system of Botany which chiefly prevails at the present day among all civilized nations is that of Linnæus, a Swede, and called, in honor of him, the Linnaean System; and it is according to this system that all the plants introduced into this work are arranged.

This system consists of Classes, Orders, Genera, and Species.

Plants.

All plants are comprehended under two grand divisions, and are either Phenogamous or Cryptogamous.

Phenogamous plants have their stamens and pistils, sufficiently manifest for examination.

Cryptogamous plants have their stamens and pistils, too minute for inspection.

On the Composition of a Flower.

Flowers, although so numerous, and apparently so diversified, consist of but seven distinct and different parts.

I. The *Pistil*. Situated in the centre of the flower. It is divided into two parts.

1. The *Stigma*, the top of the pistil; never absent.

2. The *Style*, that part of the pistil which elevates the stigma, not absolutely essential.

II. The *Stamen*, or *Stamens*. Situated exterior to the pistil. It consists of,

1. The *Anther*, at top, containing the fertilizing pollen or dust, and always present.

2. The *Filament*, elevating the anther, not essential, and is occasionally absent.

III. The *Corol*. The colored leaves within the calyx.

IV. The *Calyx*. The green colored leaves exterior to the corol.

V. The *Pericarp*. The covering of the seed, whether pod, shell, or pulpy substance.

VI. The *Seed*. The rudiment of the new plant.

VII. The *Receptacle*. The end of the flower stem, and the bases upon which all the other parts of the flower rest.

It is on the number, proportion, position, &c. of the preceding seven elementary organs of fructification that the *Classes*, *Orders*, and *Genera* of the Linnæan System of Botany are founded.

Note 1. Such flowers as want the stamens, and have the pistils, are called pistillate, or female flowers.

Note 2. Such flowers as are possessed of stamens, but are destitute of pistils, are denominated stamine, or male flowers.

Note 3. Flowers that have both stamens and pistils, are called bisexual flowers.

Explanation of the Classes and Orders of the Linnæan System of Botany.

(All vegetables are divided into twenty-two *Classes*. These Classes are divided into *Orders*; Orders into *Genera*; Genera into *Species*; and Species into *Varieties*.)

Class 1. Monandria. It includes all plants that have but one stamen in a flower.

2. **Diandria.** Two stamens in a flower.
3. **Triandria.** Three stamens in a flower.
4. **Tetrandria.** Four stamens.
5. **Pentandria.** Five stamens.
6. **Hexandria.** Six Stamens.
7. **Heptandria.** Seven stamens.
8. **Octandria.** Eight stamens.
9. **Enneandria.** Nine stamens.
10. **Decandria.** Ten stamens.
11. **Dodecandria.** Twelve to nineteen stamens.
12. **Icosandria.** Twenty or more stamens, standing on the calyx.
13. **Polyandria.** Twenty or more stamens, standing on the receptacle.
14. **Didynamia.** Four stamens, two of them the longest.
15. **Tetradynamia.** Six stamens, four of them the longest.
16. **Monadelphia.** The stamens united by their filaments in one set, anthers remaining separate.
17. **Diadelphia.** Stamens united by their filaments in two sets, flowers papilionaceous, i. e. like those of the pea.
18. **Syngenesia.** Five stamens united by their anthers in one set, flowers compound.
19. **Gynandria.** Stamens growing out of the pistil or an elongated receptacle.

20. Monoecia. Stamens and pistils in separate flowers on the same plant.

21. Dioecia. Stamens and pistils in separate flowers on different plants.

22. Cryptogamia. Stamens and pistils invisible.

An explanation of the Orders belonging to the preceding Classes.

Class I. Monandria has two orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil in a flower.
2. Diagynia. Two pistils.

Class II. Diandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Diagynia. Two pistils.
3. Trigynia. Three pistils.

Class III. Triandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Digynia. Two pistils.
3. Triagynia. Three pistils.

Class IV. Tetrandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Digynia. Two pistils.
3. Tetragynia. Four pistils.

Class V. Pentandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Digynia. Two pistils.
3. Trigynia. Three pistils.
4. Tetragynia. Four pistils.
5. Pentagynia. Five pistils.
6. Polygynia. Many pistils.

Class VI. Hexandria.

Orders.

1. **Monogynia.** One pistil.
2. **Digynia.** Two pistils.
3. **Trigynia.** Three pistils.
4. **Tetragynia.** Four pistils.
5. **Hexagynia.** Six pistils.
6. **Polygynia.** Many pistils.

Class VII. Heptandria.

Orders.

1. **Monogynia.** One pistil.
2. **Digynia.** Two pistils.
3. **Trigynia.** Three pistils.
4. **Tetragynia.** Four pistils.
5. **Heptagynia.** Seven pistils.

Class VIII. Octandria.

Orders.

1. **Monogynia.** One pistil.
2. **Digynia.** Two pistils.
3. **Trigynia.** Three pistils.
4. **Tetragynia.** Four pistils.

Class IX. Enneandria.

Orders.

1. **Monogynia.** One pistil.
2. **Trigynia.** Three pistils.
3. **Hexagynia.** Six pistils.

Class X. Decandria.

Orders.

1. **Monogynia.** One pistil.
2. **Digynia.** Two pistils.
3. **Trigynia.** Three pistils.
4. **Pentagynia.** Five pistils.

Class XI. Dodecandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Digynia. Two pistils.
3. Trigynia. Three pistils.
4. Tetragynia. Four pistils.
5. Pentagynia. Five pistils.

Class XII. Icosandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Pentagynia. Five pistils.
3. Polygynia. Many pistils.

Class XIII. Polyandria.

Orders.

1. Monogynia. One pistil.
2. Digynia. Two pistils.
3. Trigynia. Three pistils.
4. Tetragynia. Four pistils.
5. Pentagynia. Five pistils.
6. Hexagynia. Six pistils.
7. Polygynia. Many pistils.

Class XIV. Didynamia.

Orders.

1. Gymnospermia. Seeds naked in the bottom of the calyx.
2. Angiospermia. Seeds contained in a pericarp, or seed vessel.

Class XV. Tetradynamia.

Orders.

1. Siliculosia. Seeds in round or short pods.
2. Siliquosa. Seeds in long slender pods.

Class XVI. Monadelphia.

Orders.

1. Triandria. Having five stamens in a flower.
2. Pentandria. Five stamens.
3. Decandria. Ten stamens.
4. Polyandria. Many stamens.

Class XVII. Diadelphia.

Orders.

1. Pentandria. Five stamens.
2. Hexandria. Six stamens.
3. Octandria. Eight stamens.
4. Decandria. Ten stamens.

Class XVIII. Syngenesia.

Orders.

1. Polyamia æqualis. When all the florets of a compound flower are bisexual.
2. Polygamia superflua. When the florets in the centre of a compound flower are bisexual, and those in the circumference are female.
3. Polygamia frustranea. When the florets in the centre are bisexual, and those in the circumference barren.
4. Polygamia necessaria. When the bisexual florets in the centre of the flower produce no seed, but the pistil florets in the circumference produce perfect seed.
5. Polygamia segregata. Many proper calyxes within the common calyx separating the florets, of which the flower is composed.

Class XIX. Gynandria.

Orders.

1. Monandria. One stamen.
2. Diandria. Two stamens.
3. Pentandria. Five stamens.

4. Hexandria. Six stamens.
5. Octandria. Eight stamens.

Class XX. Monoecia.

Orders.

1. Monandria. One stamen.
2. Diandria. Two stamens.
3. Triandria. Three stamens.
4. Tetrandria. Four stamens.
5. Pentandria. Five stamens.
6. Hexandria. Six stamens.
7. Heptandria. Seven stamens.
8. Polyandria. Many stamens.
9. Monadelphia. Filaments united in one body.

Class XXI. Dioecia.

Orders.

1. Diandria. One stamen.
2. Triandria. Three stamens.
3. Tetrandria. Four stamens.
4. Pentandria. Five stamens.
5. Hexandria. Six stamens.
6. Octandria. Eight stamens.
7. Polyandria. Many stamens.
8. Monadelphia. Stamens united by their filaments in one body.

Class XXII. Cryptogamia.

Orders.

1. Filices. Bearing fruit on the back of the leaves. It comprehends the ferns.
2. Musci. Comprehending the mosses.
3. Hepaticae. It comprehends the liverworts.
4. Algae. Comprehending the sea weeds.
5. Lichenes. Comprehending the lichens.
6. Fungi. Comprehending the whole family of mushrooms.

The Botanist will first discover the class and order to which every unknown plant belongs by an examination of its flower: (the name of no unknown plant can be ascertained without the flower, excepting those belonging to the class *Cryptogamia*.) Thus, if on the examination of the flower of any plant we find that it has six stamens, of equal length, and one pistil, we say at once, that it belongs to the sixth class, which is *Hexandria*, and first order, which is *Monogynia*. Now, "such arrangements of Botanists are so many steps by which we arrive at a knowledge of plants. By means of *classes*, a certain number of plants, of certain common properties, are brought under review: by *orders*, a still less number: and by *genera*, the number is still less reduced." Plants belonging to the same class are generally found to possess properties somewhat similar: those belonging to the same order resemble each other still more closely; while those belonging to the same genus, or family, being, as it were, brothers, are still closer allied in their qualities. Thus we may generally judge, with a very great probability of being correct, of the properties of an unknown plant by knowing those of some other plant belonging to the same class, order, and genus with it. Thus the utility of the Linnæan system of classification in the study of Botany becomes at once apparent.

OF PLANTS OR VEGETABLES.

All vegetables are divided into Trees, Shrubs, Undershubs, and Herbs.

1. A Tree is a woody plant, in stem and branches, rising to a great height, and of long life, producing in cold climates buds on the end of its branches—as Willow, Oak.

2. A Shrub is a tree of a small size, having several similar trunks arising from the same root; as Witch-hazel, Prickley Ash. Though difficult to define, the difference between a tree and a shrub is obvious to the sight.

3. Undershrub is a woody plant, much smaller than a shrub, and whose young branches annually die—as Sage, White Steeple-bush.

4. Herb, which is of a soft, tender substance, and dies in the winter—as Tulip, Daisy, the Lilly, &c. Herbs, although they differ so materially from trees, have still, however, a number of fine woody fibres, which enable them to resist the force of the winds, but are not sufficiently firm to bear the power of the frosts of the winter.

Plants are Exotic and Indigenous.

1. Exotic plants are such as do not grow naturally in the countries where they are cultivated—as (in this country) Cabbage, Beets, Cucumbers.

2. Indigenous plants are such as grow naturally in, and are the proper productions of, the country to which we belong—as (in this country) the Oak, Maple, Daisy.

The right cultivation of plants depends upon a knowledge of the soil, climate, &c. where they naturally grow. For, although plants will often

bear great diversities of soil, situation, and climate, still we generally find them to flourish most in situations similar to those in which they naturally grow. Thus, some plants are naturally adapted to hilly situations; and the height of mountains may be ascertained by means of the plants they produce. Thus the plants that are found on mountains, and called Alpine plants, are the same all over the world, though their degrees of latitude differ so materially.

Roots of Plants.

The Root is that part of a plant found beneath the surface of the ground, and upon which the whole plant mostly depends for support. The body of the root itself is called *Caudex*. Roots are,

1. Annual, continuing but one year—as the Radish.
2. Biennial, continuing two years—as the Parsnip, Turnip.
3. Fruticose, continuing three years.
4. Perennial, continuing many years—as all trees.
5. Bulbous, having the form of a bulb—as Tulip.
6. Tubrous, having a round, fleshy, and solid body, from which fibrous roots often shoot out—as Potato.
7. Fibrous, consisting of fibres, which vary in size, being often as fine as a hair—as Gold-thread.
8. Perpendicular, descending perpendicularly into the ground—as Radish.
9. Horizontal, spreading horizontally—as Man-drake.
10. Globular, of a round shape—as Turnip.
11. Truncated, having several coats—as Onion.

12. Branching, dividing into parts—as the roots of the Oak.

13. Articulated, jointed—as May Apple.

Plants are supposed by many to derive their support wholly from their roots. This, however, is a mistake. It is true that much of the nourishment of the plant is supplied by the root, but not all; for the bark and leaves, by absorbing the nutritious gasses from the atmosphere, contribute much to the support of the whole plant.

Of the Herbage.

Herbage is all the plant except the *fructification* and *root*. It includes stem and leaves.

The stem is the ascending trunk of all plants usually bearing leaves and flowers. The different kinds are,

1. Culm, a straight hollow and jointed stem—as the Grasses.
2. Scape, a flower-bearing stem, springing directly from the roots, and destitute of leaves—as Dandelion.
3. Peduncle, the flower-bearing stem of any plant.
4. Petiole, the foot-stalk of the leaf.
5. Stipe, the stem of ferns and mushrooms;

Direction.

1. Erect, perpendicular.
2. Oblique, bending to one side.
3. Flexuose, taking a zig-zag direction.
4. Procumbent, falling, and running horizontally along on the ground.
5. Repent, fixing itself in its course by fibrous roots—as the Ivy.

6. Climbing, ascending and supporting itself by tendrils—as the Grape Vine.

7. Twining, climbing up plants spirally—as the Hop Vine.

Form.

1. Round, without angles—as the Angelica.

2. Angled, having angles—as the Parsnip.

3. Articulated, jointed—as the Elder.

4. Furrowed, having hollow lines running longitudinally along the stem—as Fire Weed.

Clothing.

1. Naked, without leaves.

2. Leafy, having leaves—as most plants.

3. Sheathed, invested with a sheath belonging to the leaf—as Grasses.

4. Pubescent, covered with soft fine hairs.

5. Hirsute, covered with stiff rough hairs.

6. Tomentose, covered with a cottony substance.

7. Prickly, armed with prickles—as Prickly Ash.

8. Thorny, covered with thorns.

Subdivision of Stems.

1. Branches, the divisions of the stem.

2. Branchlets, the divisions of the branches themselves.

Situation.

1. Alternate, placed around the stem, first on one side and then on the other.

2. Opposite, growing in pairs from opposite sides of the stem.

3. Decussated, growing in pairs, and alternately crossing each other at right angles.

4. Scattered, placed without order on the stem.

Of the Leaves of Plants.

These are evergreen or deciduous; simple or compound. Simple leaves are,

1. Orbicular, nearly circular—as the leaves of red clover.

2. Ovate, resembling the half of an egg when divided longitudinally. This is one of the most common forms of leaves.

3. Oval, broadest in the middle, and tapering equally towards both ends.

4. Obovate, this differs from ovate only in having the narrowest end attached to the stem.

5. Oblong, twice as long as broad, gradually tapering towards both ends—as the Daisy.

6. Cordate, heart-shaped, with the lobes rounded—as Lilac.

7. Obcordate, cordate, with the narrowest end of the leaf towards the stem.

8. Lanceolate, of the shape of the ancient lance, tapering from the base to the apex.

9. Kidney-form, round, and having a hollow at the base—as Colts Foot.

10. Linnear, continuing of the same width nearly through its whole length, and generally pointed at both ends.

11. Awl-form, being linnear at the base, but becoming curved near the apex.

12. Arrow-shaped, or Sagittate, shaped like an arrow-head.

13. Halbert-form, or Hastate, being shaped like a halbert—as Field Sorrel.

14. Lobed, deeply parted, with the divisions round and large.
15. Guitar-shape, narrow in the middle, and broad at the ends.
16. Palmate, resembling the hand with the fingers spread out—as Horse Chestnut.
17. Pedate, resembling a bird's foot.
18. Sinuate, having the edges hollowed out into sinuses, or bays.
19. Pinnatifid, divided transversely by deep incisions, which, however, do not quite extend to the mid-rib.
20. Lyrate, cut into lobes, of which those at the apex are the largest.
21. Runcinate, pinnatifid with the divisions pointing towards the base—as Wild Lettuce.
22. Serrate, having notches along the margin resembling the teeth of a saw, and pointing towards the apex; in English, sawed.
23. Crenate, having round notches that do not incline either towards the base or apex.
24. Emarginate, being notched at the termination of the mid-rib.
25. Obtuse, having the apex rounded.
26. Acute, ending in a point.
27. Toothed, or Dentate, having projections from the margin of the substance of the leaf itself, being neither serratures nor crenatures.
28. Entire, neither serrate, toothed, or in any manner indented or lobed.

Of Compound Leaves.

A compound leaf consists of several little leaves or leaflets, arranged along a common foot-stalk—as the leaves of the rose bush. They are,

1. Ternate, when the petiole bears three leaflets.

2. Binate, when the common petiole divides into three, each of which bears three leaflets.
3. Trinerviate, thrice ternate.
4. Pinnate, having distinct leaflets arranged along opposite sides of the same petiole—as the Rose, Locust.
5. Bipinnate, the common petiolus dividing into several petioli, upon which the leaflets are arranged.
6. Tripinnate, thrice pinnate.
7. Interruptedly-pinnate, having smaller leaflets scattered among the larger—as Potato.

Of the Surfaces of Leaves.

They are—

1. Hairy, having distinct straight hairs.
2. Downy, covered with a fine cotton-like down.
3. Silky, having the appearance of silk.
4. Bristly, covered with stiff hairs.
5. Ciliate, having hairs growing from the margin resembling eye-lashes.
6. Veined, intersected with tough fibres variously branched.
7. Nerved, having fibres running from the base to the apex without branching.
8. Dotted, full of small dots, variously colored.

Position of Leaves.

1. Decurrent, when two edges of a leaf extend along the foot-stalk beyond the place of insertion.
2. Sessile, being immediately fixed to the stem.
3. Clasping, sessile, with the base surrounding the stem.
4. Perfoliate, the stem passing directly through the leaf.

5. Connate, opposite, with their bases united.
6. Opposite, standing at the same height on opposite sides of the stem.
7. Peltate, when the foot-stalk is inserted into the middle of the leaf—as Indian Cress.
8. Imbricate, lying over each other like shingles on a roof.
9. Whorled, surrounding the stem in rings—as Indian Cucumber.
10. Fascicled, growing in branches from one point of the stem.
11. Scattered, placed without order.
12. Radical, arising from the root.
13. Cauline, attached to the stem.
14. Rameal, placed upon the branches.

Leaves form principally the decoration of plants, and are usually flat, and of a green color: this, however, varies greatly in different species. The refreshing shade which they give in the sultry season of the year has been tasted by most persons with a peculiar delight, and has been the theme of poetry in every age. Thus sings the muse of Thompson:

“Welcome, ye shades! ye bowery thickets, hail!
 Ye lofty pines! ye venerable oaks!
 Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the steep!
 Delicious is yon shelter to the soul.
 Cold thro' the nerves your pleasing comfort glides;
 The heart beats glad; the fresh expanded eye
 And ear resume their watch; the sinews knit;
 And life shoots swift through every lengthen'd limb.”

Leaves are organs of respiration, and may be called the lungs of plants. They absorb the nutritious gasses of the atmosphere, as carburetted hydrogen, nitrogen and ammoniacal gasses; and thus contribute much to the support of the whole

plant. At the same time that they absorb these gasses, nutritious to all vegetables, but deleterious to animals, they give out oxygen or vital air, and thus purify the atmosphere. The respiration powers of leaves reside principally in their under surfaces, which are replete with absorbing and exhaling vessels. This may be proved by placing two leaves upon water, upon different surfaces: that placed with the under surface down, will survive many weeks; whereas the one placed with the upper smooth surface upon the water, will soon die. Light acts powerfully upon leaves, and it is to this principle they owe their green color; for the leaves that are put forth in a dark room are colorless. The upper surfaces of leaves are always turned towards the Sun, and follow him in his diurnal course. Their under surfaces, on the contrary, seem to shun the light. Hence we may conclude that light acts beneficially upon the former, but hurtfully upon the latter. Leaves are composed of the ramifications of the foot stalk, infinitely divided, which is of a ligneous or woody nature, and of a parenchymatous substance, occupying the interstices of the net-work formed by the divided petiole, which, when removed by maceration, or eat away by worms, leaves those beautiful skeletons of leaves which we all so much admire.

OF FLOWERS.

Flowers are the most attractive and beautiful parts in plants. They serve to ornament our landscapes, charm the eye, and exhilarate the senses, at the same time that they reproduce their kind.

Every flower consists of seven elementary organs, (see pages 9 and 10,) namely, the Calyx, Corol, Stamens, Pistils, Pericarp, Seed, Receptacle.

Of the Sub-divisions of the Calyx.

1. Perianth, is that kind of calyx which is immediately contiguous to the flower—as that of the Rose, Apple, &c.

2. Involucre, a calyx remote from the flower—as Caraway and Coriander.

3. Spathe, is a calyx opening lengthwise—as Onion, Indian Turnip.

4. Glume, the outer husks of corn and grasses.

5. Ament, a calyx consisting of an assemblage of flower-bearing scales, arranged along a slender receptacle—as in the Pine, Willow, Chesnut, Walnut.

6. Calyptra, the cap of pistillate mosses, resembling the extinguisher of a candle.

7. Volva, the calyx of mushrooms.

Note.—Calyxes are, *Monophyllous*, consisting of one leaf; or *Polyphyllous*, consisting of many leaves.

Of the Sub-divisions of the Corol.

Corols are, *monopetalous*, consisting of one petal; or *Polypetalous*, consisting of more than one.

Monopetalous Corols are—

1. Bell-form, or Campanulate, having the form of a bell—as Canterbury bells.
2. Funnel-form, or Infundibuli-form, of the shape of a tunnel—as Morning Glory.
3. Salver-form, having a flat spreading border placed on a tube—as Lilac.
4. Wheel-form, having a flat spreading border, with scarce any tube, as Laurel.
5. Labiate, having the border of the corol like two lips. Labiate corols are denominated *ringent* when the throat is open—as Snap-Dragon; and *personate* when the throat is closed—as Catnip, Mint.

Polypetalous Corols are—

1. Cruciform, consisting of four equal petals, spreading out in the form of a cross—as Cabbage, Mustard, Radish.
2. Caryophylleous, or Pink-like, consisting of five regular petals, ending at the bottom in a long narrow claw, enclosed in a tubular calyx—as Pink.
3. Rosaceous, consisting of four roundish spreading petals, with very short claws—as Strawberry, Rose.
4. Liliaceous, consisting of six petals, gradually spreading from the base, so as to exhibit a bell-form appearance—as Lily.
5. Papilionaceous, consisting of four petals, so arranged as to produce the appearance of a butterfly on the wing—as Pea, Clover.

A corol not agreeing with any of the above descriptions is called *anomalous*.

Sub-divisions of the Pericarp, or Seed-vessel.

1. Drupe, a pulpy vessel, surrounding a stone, or nut—as the Cherry, Walnut.

2. Pome, is a pulpy seed-vessel, not enclosing a stone or nut, but containing cells for the reception of seeds—as Apples, Pears.

3. Berry, a pulpy seed-vessel, which has the seeds irregularly dispersed throughout its substance—as Grape, Melons.

4. Silique, is a kind of pod of two valves, and a longitudinal partition, having the seeds attached alternately to its opposite sides—as Cabbage, Radish.

5. Legume, is a pod without a longitudinal partition, having the seeds attached to one side only—as Pea, Bean.

6. Capsule, is a kind of seed-vessel opening by valves, or pores—as Poppy, Mullen.

7. Strobile, is a seed-vessel composed of woody scales—as Pine.

Sub-divisions of the Seed.

1. Tegument, the skin of seed.

2. Hilum, or Eye, the part by which it was attached to the seed-vessel.

3. Cotyledon, the thick fleshy lobe or lobes of seeds, plainly to be seen on beans.

4. Coricle, the rudiment of the future plant, proceeding from the Cotyledon.

Sub-divisions of the Receptacle.

1. Proper, belonging to one flower only.

2. Common, supporting and connecting a number of florets—as in the Daisy.

3. Rachis, a thread-like receptacle, connecting the florets in a spike—as in heads of Wheat or Rye.

4. Spadix, an elongated receptacle, surrounded with a spathe—as in Indian Turnip.

Note.—The sub-divisions of the stamen and pistil will be found on page 12.

Inflorescence.

Inflorescence, is the manner in which flowers are fixed on plants.

1. Racemed, florets placed on short pedicils, arranged along a general peduncle—as Currants.
2. Panicle, florets on the divided pedicils of the general peduncle—as in Oats.
3. Thyrse, is a panicle contracted into a compact ovate form—as in Lilac.
4. Spike, has sessile florets arranged on an elongated general receptacle—as in Mullen, Wheat, &c.
5. Whorled, flowers growing round the stem in rings—as in Motherwort, Catnip.
6. Umbellied, the flower stems diverging from the place of origin like the braces of an umbrella—as Fennel, Parsnip.
7. Cyme, it differs from an umbel in having the flower stems irregularly divided—as in Elder.
8. Corymb, the peduncles arising from different heights along the main stem, but form nearly a level top—as Yarrow.
9. Fascicled, resembling an umbel in appearance, but having flower stalks, irregular in their origin and sub-division.
10. Head, or Capitate, when the flowers are assembled so as to form a globular head, generally without peduncles—as Clover.

General Division of Flowers

1. Simple, when there is but one flower on a receptacle—as Apple.
2. Aggregate, when there are several flowers

on the receptacle, the anthers being separate—as Button Bush.

3. Compound, when several florets are supported by the receptacle, the anthers being united, as Sunflower.

4. Staminate, having stamens only—as Indian Corn.

5. Pistillate, having pistils only

6. Perfect, and Bisexual, possessing both stamens and pistils.

At every advance we make in the study of nature, we find more and more cause to be grateful to Providence. He, in his goodness, has covered the earth with innumerable plants, and clothed them with leaves and flowers. They purify the atmosphere by absorbing its noxious gasses at the same time that they exhale vital air, the only respirable part of the air, and without which man would die. Their leaves give a refreshing shade to the fainting traveller and his weary beast when oppressed with the heat of meridian day. The exuberance and variety of their flowers embellish nature; charm the eye with the delicacy of their varied hues; and regale the senses with their fragrant odors. And their virtues and uses, who can tell them all! Man has been searching them out for nearly six thousand years; and although much has been done, and many useful discoveries made, still much remains to be accomplished before our knowledge shall become perfect in a study so infinite.

Had not God designed to please and benefit us, would he have created so many delightful objects for our contemplation and use—and scattered them in such profusion over the face of the whole earth? Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed

like one of those little flowers that spring up at our feet. If, therefore, God so clothes this earth with beauty, what will be the scenery of Heaven!

“What, though I trace each plant and flower,
That drinks the morning dew,
Did I not own *Jehovah's* power,
How vain were all I knew!”

ON THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF VEGETABLES INTENDED FOR MEDICINE.

As, in general, I have given the necessary directions on this subject under the head of each particular plant, I shall here only lay down a few plain rules.

1. The roots of plants should be gathered in autumn, after the stems have died; or in the spring, before the plant shoots. They should be washed clean in cold water, and afterwards well dried; after which they should be kept, as much as possible, from the contact of the air.

2. Herbs and leaves not aromatic, should, in general, be collected when the plant is in flower; while such as are aromatic should be gathered just before the flower buds open. They may be tied up in bunches and hung up under the roof, or dried before a fire, and should always be kept as much from the light as possible.

3. Barks should, in general, be taken from young trees in the spring and autumn, and dried in the shade.

4. Flowers should be gathered in dry weather, and after the dew is off, and dried before a stove or common fire.

5. Seeds and fruits should, in general, be collected when ripe, but before they fall of themselves.

When plants loose their color and smell in the process of drying, they are unfit for use.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE MEDICAL TERMS USED IN THIS WORK.

Antiseptics. Medicines used to stop the progress of mortification.

Antispasmodics. Medicines which possess the power of curing spasms and spasmodic diseases.

Aromatics. Medicines that have a grateful, spicy scent, and an agreeable, pungent taste—as Cinnamon bark, Mint, &c.

Astringents. Medicines used to cure relaxes, bleedings, &c.—as Alum, Oak bark.

Carminatives. Medicines which operate by removing wind from the stomach and bowels. All aromatics are carminative.

Cathartics. Purging medicines.

Decoction. A preparation of medicine, made by boiling any substance in water for a longer or shorter time.

Diaphoretics. Sweating medicines.

Diuretics. Medicines which operate by increasing the discharge of urine.

Emetics. Medicines which vomit.

Errhines. Medicines which, when snuffed up the nose, cause sneezing.

Expectorants. Medicines that relieve a cough.

Extract. A preparation of medicine, made by slowly evaporating the decoction, expressed juice, or tincture of any vegetable substance down to a consistency proper for making into pills.

Infusion. A preparation of medicine, made by pouring boiling water on any vegetable substance. A tea.

Narcotics. Medicines that induce sleep—as Opium.

Stimulants. Medicines which increase the

pulse, and excite the energies of the whole system.

Tonics. Strengthening medicines.

Note.—In the following pages the letters Cl. stand for Class, and the letters Ord. for Order; the letters B. N. for Botanical Name—the name by which the plant is called in botanical science; and the letters C. N. for Common Name—the common English name by which the plant is known. The botanical name is always given in Latin, and has reference, in general, to some external character or quality of the plant.

Cl. 6. Hexandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. Acorus Calamus.
 C. N. Calamus. Sweet Flag.

Description.

Calamus, in some of its species or varieties, is found in almost all parts of the known world. The species under consideration, however, is only indigenous to the United States. It is found growing on the banks of rivers and creeks, in swamps, marshes, and stagnant ponds, generally rising from three to four feet above the surface of the water. The leaves are from one to two feet long, and sword shape. The flowers are small, numerous, and arranged on a spadix, which is from one to three inches long. It flowers in May and June.

The root is from one to three feet long, and about half an inch thick, rough, horizontal, jointed, and of a white colour, intersected with red streaks. It has a strong aromatic smell, and an acrid, bitter taste, not, however, unpleasant for most persons.

Use.

The root of calamus alone is used in medicine. It is a warm and agreeable carminative, and bitter; and when given in large doses, during the intermission of the ague, it will frequently cure that complaint; sometimes even more speedily than the Peruvian bark.

In wind colics it is allowed by many to be a valuable remedy—giving, generally, when administered in the form of hot decoction, or infusion, more speedy relief than most other medicines. In the painful flatulent colics of children and infants,

nothing, perhaps, will give more effectual relief than the infusion of the root of this plant.

As a remedy in indigestion, and weakness of the stomach and bowels, it will be found very beneficial, when given in fine powder, in the dose of two tea-spoonsfull, every five or six hours. In the advanced stage of typhus and other fevers, the decoction will prove a very pleasant drink, and will do much towards supporting the strength of the system.



Cl. 11. *Dodecandra*. Ord. 1. *Monogynia*.

B. N. *ASARUM CANADENSE*.

C. N. *Wild Ginger. White Snake-Root. False Colts-foot. Asarabacca.*

Description.

This not inelegant little plant is found in rich woody soils, and on hilly grounds. The root is long, jointed, creeping, and horizontal—of a light yellowish color. It has a strong, spicy, and aromatic taste, like to that of ginger, and an agreeable smell.

The stem is short, and divided into two branches, each terminated by a large and broad kidney-shaped leaf, which is covered with soft hairs on its upper surface, and intersected by large veins on its under. The flower stalk arises from the fork of the stem, and is about an inch long, and supports a dark purple flower. It blooms in April and May.

Use.

The leaves of the wild ginger or asarabacca, when dried and pulverised, make a powerful errhine, producing, when snuffed up the nose, violent sneezing; and in this way may be serviceable in cases of cold pain in the head, apoplexy, and polypus of the nose.

“The root,” says Dr. Barton, in his *Medical Botany*, “is a warm, grateful, aromatic stimulant, acting on the skin, (that is, producing perspiration,) when taken in sufficiently large doses, with tolerable certainty.”

Possessing carminative, sweating, and stimulant properties, it may be used with benefit in fevers, sore throat, measles, colic, indigestion, and some kinds of dropsy. It may be administered in powder or decoction. The latter should always be used when the wish is to produce perspiration.



Cl. 10. *Decandria*. Ord. 10. *Decagynia*.

B. N. *PHYTOLACCA DECANDRIA*.

C. N. *Poke*. *Poke Weed*. *Red Night Shade*.

Description.

Besides the names already mentioned, this plant is known in some parts by those of *Pork Weed*, *Pork Physic*, *Red Weed of Virginia*, &c. By the French it is called *Rasin d'Amerique*.

The usual name, however, by which it is known in this country, is poke, or poke weed.

It is abundant in every part of the United States, and is found in almost all situations. When young and tender, it is used for greens by many families, and is much esteemed. It ought, however, when used in this way, to be boiled in a large quantity of water, otherwise it will sometimes, and especially if somewhat old, produce deleterious effects. The practice is, however, not without danger, and there are some instances recorded of its producing death.

The root is tuborous, very large, and fleshy; externally of a yellowish color; internally very white. The stems rise from three to five feet high; are of a bright red color, smooth, and very much branched. The leaves are egg-shaped, large, and supported on foot-stalks from one to three inches long. They are of a bright green color, and have a disagreeable taste. The flowers are small, white, and racemed. The berries are black, and of the size of a pea, and contain a large quantity of red juice. It blooms in July.

Use.

The root, the leaves, and the berries of poke, have all been used in medicine. The root, in the dose of two tea-spoonsfull finely powdered, operates in the course of two hours as a powerful vomit, and sometimes as a purge likewise; but when thus given, it is sometimes found to produce convulsions or fits, and should therefore be administered with great caution. When, however, it is given in the form of tincture, made with wine, it is found to operate with less violence, and to answer the purpose of an emetic very well.

The tincture of the berries is esteemed by many physicians an excellent remedy in chronic rheumatism; and Dr. Barton, former professor in the medical institution of Philadelphia, believed it to be even superior to the tincture of guaiacum.

The extract of poke (which is made by slowly evaporating the expressed juice of the leaves to a proper consistence to make into pills) has been used as a remedy in the kings-evil, wens, indolent tumors, &c., and found useful.

The leaves made into an ointment with lard, is a good application to foul ulcers and old sores. This ointment may be made by boiling the leaves in lard, to which a little beeswax is added; or by mixing the powdered leaves with lard, or any common ointment.

A poultice made of the root of this plant, by boiling it until soft, will be found of service when applied to rheumatic joints and indolent swellings.

The tincture of the root is made by infusing one ounce of it in a pint of wine, of which the dose is two table-spoonsfull when given to vomit.



Cl. 10. Decandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. **KALMIA LATIFOLIA.**

C. N. *Laurel.* *Broad-leaved Laurel.*

Description.

Laurel is a shrub, generally growing from four to eight feet high; but Professor Eaton says, that on the Catskill mountains it is found more than

twenty feet high. The stem is very crooked, and the external bark is of a brown color. The leaves have long foot-stalks, and are thick, oval, smooth, and evergreen. The flowers are red and white. Calix five parted. Corol monopetalous, with ten little horns beneath, and ten cavities within, which contain the anthers. It flowers in July.

Use.

It is this plant that kills sheep and other animals; and the Indians use a decoction of the leaves to destroy themselves. It possesses undoubtedly very active powers, and should be used with great care. As yet, however, it has been but very little used in medicine. The leaves, in fine powder, have been used to cure the scald head, and found successful. The powdered leaves, mixed up with lard, form a good ointment for the itch, and some other diseases of the skin.



Cl. 13. Polyandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. *SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS*.
 C. N. *Bloodroot. Puccoon. Indian Paint.*

Description.

This beautiful little plant is found only in very rich soils, in woods, and uncultivated and bushy fields, and is one of the first to put forth its leaves and flowers in the spring. The root is about the size of the little finger, jointed, and of a deep-

blood-red color. The stem is a scape, (see outline of botany for an explanation of this and other terms, page 20,) round, smooth, and about six inches high, and crowned with a large white flower. The leaves all arise from the root, are large, numerous, and kidney-shaped. The flower is large and white; petals oval, and from six to nine in number; stamens numerous and yellow. The seed-vessel is a kind of pod, and contains numerous small seeds. It is perennial, and flowers in April.

Use.

The root of this plant is emetic, diaphoretic and strengthening. When given in the dose of a table-spoonful, it vomits freely, and effectually empties the stomach. When this dose is given about an hour before the expected return of a fit of the ague and fever, it will sometimes prevent its coming, and effectually cure the disease. As an emetic, it may be administered in almost every case in which tartar emetic, or ipecac, would be proper.

A weak decoction, made by boiling a small handfull of the root in a quart of water, will, if drank warm, generally induce a perspiration. In this way it will prove serviceable in fevers, inflammation of the lungs, dysentery, common colds and jaundice.

When the powdered root is given in the dose of a tea-spoonfull three or four times a day, it will be found to strengthen the system and increase the appetite. When thus administered, it will likewise prove beneficial in the disorders peculiar to women and girls.

When a very strong decoction of the root is well sweatened with honey, it makes an excellent cough medicine, very useful in colds, whooping

cough, croup, &c. In the croup it should be given in such quantities as will produce occasional vomiting.

The seeds of bloodroot are narcotic and poisonous, and produce, when taken into the stomach in an over-dose, fever, dizziness, and delirium.

A decoction of the seeds and leaves is given in Maryland to horses, to promote the shedding of their coats. (Thacher.)

The decoction of the root makes an excellent red dye for flannel, much used in some parts of the country.

It is a plant both ornamental and useful, and well deserves a place in the garden of every family.



Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. TANACETUM VULGARE.

C. N. *Tansey*.

Description.

Although tansey is not a native production of this country, it has now become naturalized to our soil. The leaves and flowers have a strong but not unpleasant smell, and an aromatic, bitter taste. The whole plant abounds with an essential oil, which may be obtained from it by distillation, and upon which the virtues of the plant principally depend. It flowers in July.

Use.

Tansey was much used some centuries ago as a medicine for worms, and many physicians have borne testimony to its good effects. In Scotland, according to Dr. Clark, it has been much prescribed as a remedy in gout. In the monthly returns of women it has long been used, and has often proved beneficial. In lying-in women, it certainly has the power of increasing the strength and force of the labor pains, but should be cautiously given.

Tansey is likewise a mild, strengthening medicine, and may be given in weakness of the stomach, loss of appetite, &c. The dose of the powdered leaves is a table-spoonful; of the infusion, made by pouring a pint of boiling water on a handfull of the plant, about half a tea-cupfull; of the expressed juice one or two table-spoonsfull; and of the essential oil only five or six drops.



Cl. 16. Monadelphia. Ord. 10. Decandria.

B. N. **GERANIUM MACULATUM.**

C. N. *Spotted Geranium. Crowfoot Geranium.*

Description.

This beautiful little plant is found in almost all situations, on hills and in vallies, in woods and open fields, and is certainly much better entitled to a place in our gardens than many of the exotic species cherished there. The root is horizontal

and rough, of the size of the little finger, and of a brown color. From one to two or three stems arise from the root to the height of six or eight inches, round, and covered with stiff short hairs, and generally divided into two branches. The leaves of the stem are sessile, opposite, and from three to five lobed: those that spring directly from the root are long petioled. The flowers are purple, and placed on the end of the branches in numbers of from six to eight: the calyx is five leaved: corol five petalled: petals ovate. It is perennial, and flowers in June.

Use.

The virtues of this plant reside wholly in the root, and are such as to entitle it to rank with almost any of the astringents. It may be given in relaxes, dysentery, bleedings from the lungs and nose, the summer complaint of children, &c. As a wash in ulcerations of the throat, and in what is vulgarly called the sprue, it will likewise prove serviceable. It may be given in the form of powder or decoction; of the former, the dose will be a large tea-spoonfull, frequently repeated; of the latter, a tea-cupfull.

Cl. 6. Hexandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. PRINOS VERTICILLATUS.
 C. N. *Winter Berry. Black Alder.*

Description.

Winter berry, or black alder, is a shrub growing from eight to ten feet high, and is one of the most beautiful ornaments of the swamps of our country. The beautiful red color of the berries which it produces, together with their multitude, afford a pleasing and delightful contrast to the gloomy appearance of vegetation in winter.

The stems are very much branched, and the external bark is of a dark brown color, and spotted with numerous small white dots. The leaves are oval, serrate, sharp pointed, and downy beneath. The flowers are small and white: calyx cut into six divisions: corol wheel-form, six parted. The berries are bright red, and are collected on the branches in numbers of two or three together: they become ripe in October. Both the bark and the berries have a very bitter taste. It flowers in June.

Use.

The bark of this shrub is tonic and astringent, and has been used with much benefit in incipient mortification, jaundice, relaxes, and dropsy. A strong decoction makes a good wash for foul ulcers, and soft and spungy gums.

The best way of administering it, is in the form of decoction, which may be made by boiling a handfull of the bark in one and a half pints of water down to a pint: of this, a gill may be taken at a dose.

The virtues of the berries are similar to those of the bark, and, when preserved by boiling them up in molasses, make a fine strengthening medicine, well adapted to cases of indigestion, loss of appetite, and general weakness.



Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. ANTHEMIS COTULA.

C. N. *May Weed. Wild Chamomile.*

Description.

Dry, gravelly and sandy hills, uncultivated fields, and the road side, are the favorite haunts of this plant; and its presence is pretty generally an indication of a barren and unfruitful soil. When at maturity, it is about twelve inches high, and is covered with woolly hairs throughout. The root is fibrous, and of a yellowish white. The stem is angled, and very much branched. The leaves are alternate, sessile, and doubly pinnate. The flowers are compound: the florets of the circumference of the flower are white: those of the centre yellow. It is an annual plant, and flowers from June till late in the fall.

Use.

This plant belongs to the same genus as the chainomile of the shops, (*anthemis nobilis*,) and differs but little from it in its medicinal virtues.

By some it is supposed to possess anti-spasmodic powers, and given by such in hysterics, epilepsy, asthma, &c. If it really possesses any such virtues, they are certainly very weak. It is a mild tonic, in the form of powder or cold decoction, and may be taken to strengthen the stomach. When taken freely in the form of warm decoction, it vomits and sweats freely; and hence will be found serviceable in fevers and chronic rheumatism. The dose, when the intention is to vomit, is a tea-cupfull of the warm decoction of the leaves and flowers every ten minutes, until the desired effect is produced. This decoction I have used to assist the operation of other emetics, as well as to produce perspiration, and have found it to answer both intentions well.



Cl. 10. Decandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. **CASSIA MARILANDICA.**

C N. *Wild Senna. American Senna.*

Description.

This species of senna is a large, elegant, and beautiful plant, growing on the banks of brooks and rivers, in light, sandy, and loamy soil. Several stems proceed from one root, which are from two to four feet high when fully grown, and round and smooth. The leaves are in pairs of eight: the leaflets are lance-oblong in shape, and sharp at the end.

The flowers are racemed, small, and of a yellow color: the general flower-stalks arise from the stem at the place where the leaves and branches are connected with it. The seeds are contained in pods, which are from three to four inches long, and covered with a few red hairs. It is perennial, and flowers in August.

Use.

The leaves of the wild senna operate as a mild cathartic, and are allowed by those who have made trial of them to be equal, or very nearly so, to the Alexandrian species. It is best administered in infusion, which may be made by pouring upon a large handfull of the leaves about a pint of boiling water; and this will be a dose for an adult. It should be gathered for use when the pods are nearly ripe.

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Cl. 10. Decandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. CHIMAPHILA UMBELLATA.
 C. N. *Pipsissewa*. *Princes Pine*. *Ground Holly*.

Description.

Pipsissewa grows on hilly ground in woods, and generally may be found wherever the common winter-green is observed to grow. The stem rises from three to five inches in height, and is branched at the top. The leaves are evergreen, scattered, notched on their edges, lanceolate, and

sharp pointed at the base. The flowers are corymbbed, and of a white and red color: calyx five parted: corol five petalled: stamens ten: pistil one. The root is fibrous, long, and creeping, and of a yellow color, and has a bitter, aromatic, but not disagreeable, taste. It is a beautiful perennial plant, flowering in July.

Use.

This plant is tonic and diuretic, and strengthens the system: at the same time it produces an increased discharge of urine. It has been much used in dropsies, particularly of the belly and chest; and as it possesses considerable tonic powers, it is supposed to be best adapted to such cases as are attended with a great degree of weakness and relaxation of muscular power. Dr. Summerville, of Canada, has highly recommended it in those diseases. He used it in the case of the Governor of that country, with manifest advantage, after various other remedies had failed. His case was dropsy of the belly.—(See Barton's Med. Bot.) I have frequently given it in dropsical cases; and although it has sometimes proved beneficial, it has often disappointed my expectations.

With some physicians it is highly esteemed, when given in the form of strong decoction, in suppression and difficulty of urine, produced by the drawing of a blister. Being a gentle and agreeable tonic, it may be given in many cases of weakness, indigestion, &c. with advantage. The dose of the leaves in powder is a large teaspoonfull. The decoction, made by boiling the leaves and roots in water, may at all times be drank freely.

C1. 10. Decandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. GAULTHERIA PROCUMBENS.
 C. N. *Wintergreen, Mountain Tea, &c.*

Description.

This species of the gaultheria delights in a rich upland soil, in woods, where it is found in abundance throughout the United States. Dr. Barton says, that "during the American Revolution, when China tea was scarce, or not procurable, it was a common practice to make a tea of the recent or dried leaves of the wintergreen; and, after being sweetened with sugar, and softened with milk, or cream, it was drank by many families at breakfast and supper in lieu of common tea or coffee." The flowers are reddish white, and appear in June. It is so universally known, that a description will be unnecessary.

Use.

The whole plant is a stimulant, anodyne, and sweating medicine, and will be found useful in colds, in fever, and in all cases that are not of an inflammatory nature, in which sweating is indicated. In nervous fevers, especially, it makes a very pleasant and soothing drink, and will much assist in the cure. It is to be given made into a tea, and drank freely.

Cl. 4. Tetrandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. *CORNUS SERICEA*.
 C. N. *Red Osier. Swamp Dogwood. Red Willow. Blue-berried Dogwood.*

Description.

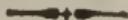
This shrub grows only in swamps, and low and damp grounds. It is a species of dogwood, and in this country usually known by the name of red willow. It seldom exceeds eight or ten feet in height; and the bark, especially that of the smaller branches, is of a bright red color. The leaves are egg-shaped, and rusty, and hairy beneath. The flowers are small, white, and arranged in cymes. (See the Outline of Botany for an explanation of this term.) The berries are blue. It flowers in June.

Use.

As this shrub belongs to the same class, order, and genus as the *Cornus Florida*, it might be supposed to possess similar properties; and this, according to the testimony of different physicians, is found to be the case. It may, therefore, be given in every case in which that bark, or the Peruvian, would be proper. The bark of this species can be more easily pulverised than the *Cornus Florida*; and this circumstance may sometimes induce us to give it the preference. It may be given in the form of powder, or decoction, or extract: of the powder, the dose is a small tablespoonfull; of the extract, about two or three pills.

In some parts the young twigs and branches of this shrub are made into baskets of the coarser kinds, and wear well. Dr. Barton says, that the Indians of our country smoke the bark of this

shrub mixed with tobacco, and that the Delawares call this mixture kinnihanick.



Cl. 12. Icosandria. Ord. 5. Pentagynia.

B. N. *GILLENA TRIFOLIATA*.

C. N. *Indian Physic. Bowmans Root.*

Description.

This plant is generally found in dry and gravelly soils, in woods and bushy fields. The root is composed of numerous long, slender fibres, of a brown color, and of the size of a small goose quill. Three or four stems arise from the root to the height of two or three feet; round, slender, and of a reddish color. The leaves are in threes, on the stem and branches: leafets, lanceolate and toothed. The flowers are small, and white, and pannicled. The calyx is five toothed: corol five leaved: stamens twelve: pistils five. It flowers in July.

In Northampton and Pike counties, in the State of Pennsylvania, I have seen it in abundance, but have seldom found it in this county—(Ulster.) It may be easily propagated from the root, or by sowing the seeds.

Use.

The bark of the root is a sure emetic, producing full vomiting, and a free perspiration. It may be given in almost every case in which an emetic is

indicated; in ague and fever, remittent fever, indigestion, dysentery, &c. The dose is a tablespoonfull of the powdered root, the patient drinking freely at the same time of a decoction of the leaves and flowers of the wild camomile, or of simple warm water. The root should be gathered in September.

Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 2. *Diagynia.*
 B. N. *ANGELICA ATROPURPUREA.* L.
 C. N. *Angelica.* *Purple Angelica.*

Description.

This plant is found mostly in meadows and low and damp grounds. The root is tubrous, from four to six inches long, and externally of a yellow color. It has an aromatic smell, (which is likewise possessed by the whole plant,) and a sharp, penetrating taste. The stem is round, and smooth, and rises from four to six feet in height, and is of a purple color. The leaves are compound: the leaflets are supported on short foot-stalks, oblong, and sawed on their edges. The flowers are umbellated, numerous, small, white, and placed at the top of the stem, like those of the parsnip: stamens five: pistils two. It flowers in June and July.

Use.

The root is an excellent carminative medicine, and may be used to advantage in colic, wind in

the stomach and bowels, hysterical complaints, &c. It may be administered in the form of powder, or infusion, in boiling water: of the former, the dose is about a teaspoonfull: of the latter, any quantity.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superba.

B. N. ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM. L.
C. N. Yarrow. Milfoil.

Description.

Yarrow, though not a very common plant, is, nevertheless, to be found in many situations. The stem rises from six to eighteen inches in height, branched, furrowed, and downy. The leaves are deeply gashed; the divisions narrow and toothed. The flowers are numerous, small, white, and situated at the top of the stem. The whole plant has a bitter and spicy taste. It flowers in July and August.

Use.

The leaves and flowers are strengthening and carminative, and will be found serviceable in indigestion, wind colics, and the hysterics. It should always be used when green, if procurable, as it loses much of its powers by drying.

It may be used in the form of expressed juice, or of infusion, in boiling water, and should always be taken freely.

Cl. 20. Monoecia. Ord. 16. Monadelphia.
B. N PINUS BALSAMEA. W.
C. N. *Fir Tree. Balsam Tree. Balsam of Fir. Oil Tree.*

Description.

This tree is found in various parts of the United States, but it is most abundant in Canada. It grows from twenty to forty feet high, and is found mostly on ridges, and hilly and dry grounds, in woods. The leaves are numerous, small, flat, spreading, and evergreen, and of the size of those of the hemlock tree. The cones are cylindric, and stand erect on the end of the branches. The stamens and pistils are found in different flowers. It flowers in May.

Use.

From this tree, when wounded, a liquid resin exudes, which possesses properties very similar to those of turpentine. When taken in large doses, it proves laxative, increases the discharge of urine, and promotes the monthly discharge of women. It may, therefore, be given in habitual costiveness, piles, cough, pains in the breast and side, chronic rheumatism, gravel, &c. In the form of an injection, it is much esteemed in colic; and as an external application, it has long been a popular remedy for chaps, eruptions of the skin, and to promote the union of fresh wounds.

Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 5. Pentagynia.
B. N. ARALIA HISPIDA. Mx.
C. N. *Bristly-stem Sarsaparilla.*

Description.

This shrub is found only in neglected fields, in woods, and on mountains. It is rather scarce in this county, and in some parts it is entirely unknown. On the top of the Shawangunk mountains, near what is called the Paltz Point, I have found this shrub in considerable quantity. The roots are long, slender, and woody, and of a light brown color. The stem rises about two feet high, thickly covered, especially near the root, with stiff bristles or prickles. The leaves are doubly pinnate. The leaflets are egg-shaped, gashed, toothed, and smooth. The flowers are umbelled and white; calyx with five teeth; petals five. It flowers in June.

Use.

The root, made into a strong tea, and drank freely, will vomit effectually, and may be given in every case in which medicines of this class are required.

Cl. 12. Icosandria. Ord. 5. Pentagynia.
 B. N. ARONIA MELANOCARPA. P.
 C. N. *Black Choke Cherry.*

Description.

This shrub grows in damp situations, in meadows and neglected fields, and along brush fences. It grows from ten to fifteen feet high, and in the color of its bark and shape of its leaves resembles the common wild cherry, (*Prunus Virginiana.*) The flowers are white, numerous, small, and corymbbed. Calyx five toothed: petals five: berries of the size of a buck-shot; black when ripe, and very astringent. It flowers in May.

Use.

The bark of the root and the berries are the only parts used in medicine. The former is stimulant, and, in the form of a strong tea, has gained considerable repute as a popular remedy in chronic rheumatism. The latter are powerfully astringent, and may be used in the form of decoction in dysenteries, relaxes, &c. The berries may be preserved by drying, without loosing their strength; or made into a syrup with sugar.

There is another species of the choke cherry, distinguished from the preceding by its bearing red berries, and called the *red-berried choke cherry*, (*Aronia Arbutifolia.*) The berries of this species are more acid than the black choke cherry, but not so astringent.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Pol. Sap.
B. N. ARTEMISIA ABSYNTIUM. L.
C. N. *Wormwood.*

Wormwood is an exotic plant, and a native of Great Britain. It has a strong and disagreeable smell, and an intensely bitter taste. Though not indigenous to this country, it is cultivated in the garden of almost every family in the United States, and is so well known as to render description unnecessary.

Use.

The whole plant contains an essential oil, upon which its stimulant and aromatic properties depend. This oil, in the dose of a few drops, may be taken to remove wind from the stomach and bowels. Mixed with hartshorn, (Aqua Ammonia,) it forms a good liniment for bruises, sprains, rheumatic pains, &c.

The expressed juice of the green plant, or the dried leaves in powder, have long been used, and with much benefit, in indigestion, hypochondria, dropsy, and in some cases of jaundice; to break the fits of the ague and fever, and to destroy worms.

The dose of the expressed juice is a tablespoonfull; of the powdered leaves, when given to break the ague, the same, repeated every two hours during the intermission; but in indigestion and dropsy, the interval between the doses should be longer.

Cl. 5. Pensandria. Ord. S. Trigynia

B. N. RHUS TOXICODENDRON.

C. N. *Poison Vine. Poison Ivy. Poison Ash.*

Description.

This vine is found climbing along old stone walls, up decayed trees and old stumps, in meadows and neglected fields. In climbing trees it does not pass up them in spiral circles, like the hope vine, but passes nearly straight up, supporting itself by fibrous roots fixed to the bark of the tree, and gains sometimes a height of twenty or thirty feet. It is a species of sumach, and belongs to the same genus or family as the red-berried sumach, so common in all parts.

The stem is climbing, or creeping, and of a light ash color, from which, when broken, exudes a milky juice. The leaves are in threes, of an oval shape, and smooth on their edges. The foot-stalks of the leaves are about four inches long, and of a reddish color, especially where the leaves are connected with them. It flowers in July: flowers greenish yellow. The whole plant has the smell of common sumach.

Use.

This is the vine by which some persons are poisoned whilst working in hay and grain in harvest time. And some individuals, it is said, are so easily poisoned by it, that simply inhaling the odor arising from it while burning, is sufficient to produce this effect. The milky juice which this vine contains is undoubtedly very acrid and stimulating, and produces, when applied to the skin, redness, swelling, and pain, soon followed by an eruption of pimples, that quickly degenerate into

ulcers that have no disposition to heal. The most effectual remedy for these ulcers that I ever used, was the blue mercurial ointment.

The bark and leaves of this plant possess stimulating and narcotic qualities, and have been given in some cases of palsy with success. They excite, when taken into the stomach, says Dr. Alderton, a sense of heat and pricking; and in palsy this is followed by irregular twichings of the limbs affected. In diseases of the skin, as itch, ringworm, &c., it is said to be useful. The dose is from one grain of the powdered bark or leaves, gradually increased to six or ten, twice or thrice a day.



Cl. 20. Monoccia. Ord. 13. Polyandria.

B. N. QUERCUS ALBA.

C. N. *White Oak.*

Description.

This tree is well known. It is one of the most useful trees of the American forests, and is almost exclusively used in the construction of all buildings and works of strength and durability. The grain of the wood is remarkably fine, straight and solid; and when it is felled in the proper season of the year, and kept dry, will remain sound more than a century.

Use.

The bark of this tree only is used in medicine. It is powerfully astringent, and may be used in

dysentery, relaxes, bleeding from the nose, and in what is called the summer complaint of children, and will prove a useful medicine. I have often made use of it in my practice, and think highly of it, in the bowel complaints of children especially. It should be administered in the form of decoction, with milk or water, and drank freely. In this form it may likewise be used as a gargle for ulcers in the throat, and as a wash for foul sores on any part of the body.

Acorns, the fruit of various species of the *Oak*, have been used in some countries at particular periods of time as food. "Among the Spaniards, the acorn, or *glans iberica*, is said to have long remained a delicacy, and to have been served up in the form of a dessert. In dearths, acorns have been sometimes dried, ground into meal, and baked into bread. Bartholin relates that they are used in Norway for this purpose. The inhabitants of Chio held out a long siege without any other food; and in a time of scarcity in France, A. D. 1709, they recurred to this food." They are said, however, to be difficult of digestion, and to create headache and flatulency.

Cl. 9. Enneandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. *LAURUS BENZOIN*.

C. N. *Spice Bush. Wild Alspice. Fever Bush*.

Description.

The spice bush is found in various parts of the country, growing on the banks of brooks and

rivers, in meadows and uncultivated low grounds. It grows in clusters of from five to twenty stems, which attain the height of from five to ten feet, and are very much branched. The external bark is of an ash color, and is spotted with numerous white dots. The leaves are long; egg-shape. The flowers consist each of six flower leaves, of a yellow color. The berries are of a scarlet color, and ripen in September. It flowers in April.

Use.

The wild alspice, as this bush is sometimes called, is certainly a fine aromatic shrub, the bark of which has a taste and smell something similar to that of alspice. It is strongly aromatic, stimulant and tonic, and may be used with advantage as a sweating medicine in fevers when administered in hot decoction, and in weakness, some kinds of dropsy, dysentery, &c. As a tonic or strengthening medicine, in the form of cold decoction or powder.

Dr. Barton, of Philadelphia, says, that an infusion of the young branches and twigs of the spice bush have been given to children for the purpose of destroying worms, and that it is considered by many very efficacious in such cases.*

The Indians, it is said, make a great use of this shrub in the cure of diseases; but in what cases is not well known.

The berries have a very spicy taste, and have been used by some families in the room of that much used condiment, alspice.

The dose of the bark powdered is about a tablespoonfull; and of the infusion, or decoction, a pint per day.

* Vide Barton's Med. Bot.

Cl. 6. Hexandria. Ord. 3. Trigynia.
 B. N. **GYROMIA VIRGINICA.**
 C. N. *Indian Cucumber.*

Description.

This singularly beautiful little plant is found in dry, gravelly and upland soils, in woods, and on mountains. The root is about two inches long, tubrous, and of a milk-white color. The stem is simple, not branched, round, and covered with soft flocculent hairs, and grows from one to two feet high. The leaves are arranged in two distinct whorls—one placed two-thirds the distance up the stem, composed of about seven leaves of a broad lance shape; the other is placed at the top of the stem, at the place where the flower-stalks are given off, and is composed of three smaller leaves. The flowers are three or four in number, and placed at the top of the stem on peduncles of one or two inches long. It flowers in June. The flowers are yellow and red.

Use.

The root of the Indian cucumber was once supposed to be a cure for cancer when applied in the form of powder or ointment; but its powers in this disease are now wholly disregarded.

In dropsy it has been used, and it is said with benefit; and Dr. Barton, after having made some trials of it in this disease, was inclined to think favorably of its powers. Considering, however, its sensible qualities, I am inclined to think that it is by no means an active medicine. The Indians, it is said, make use of it for food.

Cl. 13. Polyandria. Ord. 13. Polygyniaæ
 B. N. COPTIS TRIFOLIA.
 C. N. *Golden Thread.*

Description.

This little plant is not very common in this vicinity. It is found only in swamps and low damp grounds, rising to the height of about four inches. The root is fibrous, long, and creeping, and of a bright yellow color. The stems are round, slender and weak. The leaves are in threes, smooth and evergreen. The flower leaves are six or seven in number, and of a greenish white. It flowers in May.

Use.

The root of golden thread is perhaps as pure a tonic bitter as any our country affords; and in cases of debility, indigestion, from weakness of the stomach and bowels, and loss of appetite, will prove a powerful remedy. Dr. Thacher says, that in New England it is much used in ulcerations of the mouth and throat—and further states, that "experience has evinced its good effects."

It may be given in powder or decoction: of the former a small table-spoonfull will be a proper dose for adults; and of the latter a half teacupfull, repeated as occasion may require.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 1. Polygamia *Aequalis.*

B. N. *EUPATORIUM PERFOLIATUM.*

C. N. *Boneset. Thoroughwort.*

Description.

This plant belongs to a very numerous genus or family. The whole number of species found in America alone amount, it is said, to nearly seventy. Of this number twenty-seven are natives of North America, all of which produce their flowers in the fall; and by the variety of their colors, and variegated hues, add much to the beauty of our autumnal landscapes, decorating the banks of creeks and streamlets, and the borders of low and damp meadow grounds by the abundance in which, in these situations, they are to be found.

The species under consideration (boneset) is plentifully scattered over all parts of the country; and though not the most beautiful, is allowed by medical men to be the most active of any of the individuals used in medicine. The stem rises from one to four feet high, and is crowned at the top with an abundance of small white and compound flowers. The leaves are in pairs, opposite, and clasp the stem in such a manner as to make each pair of leaves appear like one whole leaf, perforated through the centre by the stem. The whole plant is covered with soft gray hairs, closely compressed. It flowers from August till November, and is, I believe, well known to most persons by its intensely bitter taste, possessed equally by every part of the plant.

Use.

Boneset is a powerful tonic and sweating medi-

cine. As a tonic, or strengthening medicine; it is allowed by most physicians in the United States acquainted with its virtues to be equal, if not superior, to the Peruvian bark. I have frequently given it as a tonic to restore the strength of the system after being reduced by an attack of ague and fever, remittent fever, &c.; and when I could induce such patients to take it freely, and continue the use of it, always with manifest advantage. As an emetic and sweating medicine, I have frequently given it to patients, and have also taken it myself, and have always found it to vomit and sweat, when taken in sufficiently large doses, as freely, effectually, and certainly as any medicine I ever used. In fact, as a vomit, I have generally found it to operate sooner than either antimony or ipecacuanha, and with less severity.

A respectable practitioner of medicine in New Jersey has highly praised the boneset in all cases of fever, and especially in typhus. In the numerous cases of this disease which came under his care he used this plant in warm and cold decoction (but preferred the warm) with great success. It produced copious sweating, and gave more effectual relief than any other medicine.*

We are informed by Thacher, that in the year 1812 this plant was given in the New-York Alms House in cases of intermittents, and with uniform success.

In the treatment of yellow fever, we are told by Dr. Anderson that Dr. Hosack and Dr. Bard, after proper evacuations of the bowels, placed great dependence on this medicine in the form of decoction. Being a strong tonic, it may be given, and will be found beneficial, in weakness, dropsy, indigestion, loss of appetite, &c.

* Vide Barton's works, page 137.

It may be administered in the form of powder, of which the dose will be about a small table-spoonfull; or in decoction, (which may be made by boiling a large handfull of the leaves in a pint of water,) of which the dose will be a half tea-cupfull every hour, if the intention be to produce sweating; but if it be to produce vomiting, the same dose should be given every fifteen minutes. It should always be recollected when giving this plant, that if the wish be to induce sweating or vomiting, it should be administered in hot decoction; but if it be intended to operate as a tonic on the system, it should be given in powder or cold decoction.



Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. DATURA STRAMONIUM.

C. N. *Stramonium*. *Thorn Apple*. *Stink-weed*.

Description.

The stramonium is a southern plant, but is rapidly travelling towards the north, and may now be found where a few years since it was entirely unknown. It grows around old gardens, barn yards, and in rich and uncultivated grounds.

There seems evidently to be two species, or at least two varieties of this plant in the United States; and accordingly Professor Eaton, in his Manuel of Botany, has described two—the *Stramonium* and the *Glabra*. The latter is not quite so common as the former. It has a dull blue flower, and is of a darker green throughout.

The root of the stramonium is white, and the main body is tubrous, from which proceeds numerous fibres of the same color. The stem rises from two to five feet in height, very much branched, and spreading, and in general of a dark purple color. The leaves are egg-shaped, smooth, and gashed. The flowers are of a white color, streaked with blue. The corol is monopetalous, shaped like a funnel, and plaited. The capsule, or seed vessel, is of the shape and size of a small hen's egg, covered with numerous spines, many seeded, and when ripe of a yellow color. It flowers in July. The whole plant has a disagreeable and nauseous smell.

Use.

Every part of the stramonium is a strong narcotic poison, producing in an over-dose dizziness, stupor and death. Nevertheless, it has long been used in the cure of diseases with good effect. Dr. Archer, of Maryland, considers it a powerful remedy in convulsions and epilepsy, and asserts that it will, when properly administered, as certainly cure those diseases as the Peruvian bark will the ague and fever. Although it is a powerful medicine in many nervous complaints, yet, I think, this is asserting too much; for epilepsy, owing to a particular conformation of the system, is sometimes an incurable disease. It has likewise been much used in madness and melancholy, and with considerable success. The leaves made into an ointment, by boiling them in lard, is much used as an application to external piles, and is certainly often beneficial. I have applied the fresh leaves, wet with vinegar, to rheumatic limbs, and always found them to relieve the pain and induce sleep; but the relief thus obtained is only temporary.

The dose of the leaves in powder is five grains for an adult, which may be gradually increased to thirty.

Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 2. *Diagynia.*

B. N. *CONIUM MACULATUM.*

C. N. *Poison Hemlock.* *Cicuta.*

Description.

This is a large umbelliferous plant, indigenous both to Europe and America, and is remarkable from the circumstance of its having been the plant by which the great and good philosopher of ancient Greece, Socrates, was put to death. In this country it is found growing along the sides of fences, around barn yards and old gardens, &c. The root is white, long, contains when young a milky juice, and is about the thickness of the finger. The stalk is from three to seven feet high, hollow, very smooth, and dotted with red or brown spots. The leaves are compound, very large, and supported on long foot-stalks. From each of these foot-stalks other foot-stalks arise, and from these last a still smaller order, to which are attached numerous dark green, lance-shaped, notched leaflets. The flowers are in umbels, and white. The seeds are flat on one side and round on the other, and have each five ribs. It flowers in July. The whole plant has a peculiar, nauseous scent, somewhat resembling the urine of a cat. The leaves should be collected for use in June, dried before the fire, and kept in close bottles, excluded from the light.

The whole plant is a strong narcotic poison, producing, when taken in an over-dose, dizziness, dimness of sight, difficulty of speech, trembling and death; yet in small doses it may be taken in safety, and has sometimes proved a powerful remedy in the kings-evil, cancer, indolent swellings, foul ulcers, &c.

The dose of the powdered leaves is three grains per day, gradually increased. Externally it may be used in the form of an ointment, wash, or poultice, in the diseases already mentioned.



Cl. 12. Icosandria. Ord. 13. Polygynia,
 B. N. *RUBUS VILLOSUS*.
 C. N. *Black-berry Bush. High-bush Black-berry.*

Description.

The species belonging to the genus rubus found in the United States amount to nearly twenty; and although they have nothing very beautiful or attractive in their appearance, they are, nevertheless, much esteemed on account of the flavor and lusciousness of the fruit or berries which they produce.

The rubus villosus, or high-bush black-berry, is the most numerous of all the different species of this family of plants. It is found in dry and aired situations, in old fields, along the road side, &c.; and is so well known as to render a further description unnecessary.

Use.

The root is the only part used in medicine. It possesses considerable astringent powers, and has long been used in mild cases of dysentery, relaxes, and the summer complaint of children. In those cases I have frequently given it, and generally found it beneficial.

It should be given in decoction, made by boiling the root in milk or water, of which a tea-cupfull three or four times a day will be a sufficient dose for an adult; children in proportion.

The *rubus trivialis*, or the creeping blackberry or dew-berry, as it is called by some, possesses properties similar to those of the preceding bush, and may be used in every case in which that is recommended. The form of administration and dose is the same.



Cl. 2. Diandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. *HEDEOMA PULEGIOIDES*.

C. N. *Pennyroyal*.

Description.

This little plant grows about one foot high, on upland and dry and gravelly soils, in all parts of the United States. It flowers from July until late in the fall, and is so universally known, that further description would be superfluous.

Use.

The whole plant is a pleasant, aromatic simp-
lant, and contains a large portion of an essential
oil, which may be obtained from it by distillation,
and upon which much, if not all, of the virtues of
the plant depend.

It has long been used in the form of strong in-
fusion, in boiling water, as a remedy in various
complaints, and particularly in cases of suppres-
sion of the monthly returns of women and girls
from exposure to cold. In these cases I have
myself frequently directed it to be drank hot, in
large quantities, for several successive nights, on
going to bed, and have sometimes found it of ser-
vice. In fevers it makes a pleasant drink, which
often produces considerable perspiration. The
essential oil will be found serviceable in removing
pain in the belly, produced by wind in the sto-
mach and bowels.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Su-
perflua.

B. N. SCENECIO HIERACIFOLIA.

C. N. *Fire-weed.*

Description.

This plant is wholly destitute of beauty; and
having a disagreeable, nauseous smell, is passed
by, in general, without notice. It grows in rich
and uncultivated situations, along old walls, and

among rubbish. It likewise flourishes greatly in newly cleared land, particularly if it has been lately burnt over.

The stem rises from three to six feet high, and is from one to one and a half inches in diameter at the root, and furrowed throughout. The leaves are clasping, broad lance-shape, deeply, acutely, and unequally toothed. The flowers are white, numerous, and crowded together on the end of the branches. The calyx long, round, and of a dark green color. Root fibrous, woody, and nearly tasteless. It flowers in July and August. The whole plant has the smell of gum myrrh.

Use.

The virtues of this plant have not yet, so far as I know, been ascertained. I, however, some time since, was induced, from a consideration of its sensible qualities, to make a few trials of it as a medicine, and am inclined to think favorably of its powers in the diseases peculiar to women and girls, and in the hysterics, nervous headach, &c. The only part of the plant I have used are the leaves, which should be given in powder, or in strong infusion in boiling water.



Cl. 6. Hexandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
 B. N. *BERBERIS VULGARIS.*
 C. N. *Barberry.*

Description:

The Barberry is a large bush, and is found on

hills, in woods, and uncultivated bushy fields. The outside bark is of an ash color; the inner bark of a deep yellow. The branches are dotted and prickly: the prickles are mostly arranged in clusters of threes. The leaves are obovate, and thinly serrate. The flowers are bright yellow, and racemed. Calyx six leaved: petals six. The berries are of a bright red color, and contain each from two to four seeds. It flowers in May. The external bark and the leaves have an astringent and acid taste: the inner bark is bitter.

Use.

The external bark and leaves of this shrub, as has already been stated, are astringent, and will be found serviceable in all cases in which such medicines are indicated—as dysentery, looseness of the bowels, &c. The internal bark is a tonic bitter, and may be used in weakness, indigestion, the ague and fever, &c., and will be found to strengthen the system and increase the appetite.

Some physicians have been in the practice of using the inner bark of this shrub in jaundice; but I very much doubt the propriety of the practice: for jaundice is a disease almost always attended with more or less inflammation of some organ, most generally of the liver; and as this bark possesses considerable tonic and strengthening powers, it will rather increase than relieve the complaint.

The inner bark of this plant may be administered either in powder, or infusion in boiling water. The berries contain a sour juice, which, when mixed with water, forms a pleasant drink in fevers.

Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 3. *Trigynia.*
 B. N. *SAMBUCUS CANADENSIS.*
 C. N. *Black-berried Elder.*

Description.

There are but two species of the elder found in the United States; namely, the black and the red-berried elder. The former is a very common shrub, and may be found in all situations; but the latter is by no means so, and is found only on mountains and in unfrequented wilds. The black-berried elder flowers in June; has an umbelliferous inflorescence; and ripens its berries about the first of September: whereas the red-berried species flowers in May; has a panicled inflorescence; and ripens its fruit in July. The former is too universally known to require further description.

Use.

The expressed juice of the ripe berries, evaporated over a slow fire down to the consistence of honey, makes a pleasant and useful laxative medicine for children, which they will, in general, take without trouble. The dose is from a tea-spoonfull to a table-spoonfull every hour until the desired effect is produced.

The inner bark of the elder boiled with lard forms an excellent bland and healing ointment for chaps of the lips or hands; a good application to burns and fresh wounds; and when a little white vitriol is added to it, an excellent dressing for sore nipples. In one of the worst cases of tetter I ever met with, in which much of the surface of the whole body was covered with pustules, or scabs, this ointment effected a cure, even after many of

a more powerful nature had been used without effect.

Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 3. Trigynia.

B. N. **PANAX QUINQUEFOLIUM.**

C. N. *Ginseng.*

Description.

This plant is a native both of the Asiatic and American continents. The Chinese call it *Jin-chen*, and very highly esteem the root for its medicinal qualities. In this country it is found in damp grounds in woods, and in some States of the Union is very abundant.

The root is three or four inches long, and generally divided into two or three branches, all of a light yellow color. The stem is round, erect, two or three feet high, of a green color below, but purplish red near the top where the flower-stalks are given off. At this place the stem divides into three branches, which form the footstalks of the leaves. The leaves are compound; the leaflets from three to five in number, egg-shaped, and sawed on their edges. The flowers are small, numerous, umbelled, and of a white color. The berries have a fine vermillion color, and ripen at irregular periods. It flowers in May.

Barton, of Philadelphia, says that the Indians of this country call the root of this plant *Garentoquen.*

Use.

The Chinese highly esteem this root for its supposed medicinal virtues, and use it in the cure of almost every disease incident to their country, and have little or no confidence in any medicine that does not consist in part of this root. They declare that it gives immediate relief in cases of bodily or mental fatigue; cures difficult breathing; sharpens the appetite; increases the strength of the digestive organs; allays vomiting; and cures the hypochondria and the hysterics. Thus they make it out a complete panacea—a remedy for all diseases of the human system. (See Barton's Med. Bot.)

In spite, however, of all the encomiums lavished upon the root of ginseng by the Chinese, American physicians consider it simply a mild tonic, and demulcent, and use it only in some cases of colds attended with cough, and in mild cases of indigestion from weakness of the stomach. It should be given in decoction, and may be taken freely.



Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 1. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *LOBELIA SYPHILITICA.*

C. N. *Blue Cardinal Plant.*

Description.

The blue cardinal plant is found in low and damp situations, in meadows, marshes, &c. It is,

however, not a very common plant, and in some districts is almost wholly unknown.

The root is fibrous, and has a nauseous and acrid taste. The stem is erect, angled, seldom branched, hairy above, but not so beneath, and rises from one to two feet high. The leaves are lance-shaped, toothed on their edges, and veined. The flowers are numerous, large, and of a Prussian blue color, and are placed along the upper part of the stem in a spike. The stamens are five in number, united by their anthers at the top; pistil one. It flowers in August and September.

Use.

The root of this plant has long been highly esteemed by the aborigines of America as a powerful remedy in the venereal disease and its different forms, clap, chancre, &c. As soon as this became known to Europeans, an immediate trial was made of its powers in the cure of this disease by several physicians; but it was found utterly ineffectual, and is now entirely disregarded as a remedy in those cases.

By some of our western physicians it is used in dropsy, and it is said with good effect. It is given in decoction, in the proportion of half an ounce of the root to one pint of water. In this form it is to be gradually increased until it produces vomiting or purging.

Cl. 4. *Tetrandria.* Ord. 2. *Diagynia.*
 B. N. *HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA.*
 C. N. *Witch Hazel.*

Description.

This singular shrub is found in abundance in many places throughout the United States. It delights most in loamy, dry, and arid soils; in woods and neglected fields. It grows from five to fifteen feet high, and in bunches of from six to twenty stems from one root. The external bark is of an ash color, spotted here and there with irregular whitish spots of different sizes. The inner bark is yellow, and manifests first a sweet, and afterwards a bitter taste. The leaves are universally egg-shaped and toothed on their edges. The flowers are small, numerous, and of a bright yellow color, and are found intermixed with the fruit of the preceding year, but now became perfectly ripe. It blooms from October till the beginning of winter, and forms a delightful contrast to the solemn scenes which are then presented to the eye in the destruction of vegetable nature. Though stripped of all its leaves by the hoar frosts of winter, it is thickly and gaily clad in beautiful yellow flowers, that seem to defy the rage of the season.

Use.

This shrub is esteemed a valuable article in the *Materia Medica* of the Indians of this country. "They apply the bark, which is sedative and discutient," says the author of the *American Dispensatory*, "to painful tumors and external inflammations." A poultice made of the inner bark has been found very serviceable in inflammations of the eyes. It is considerably astringent and se-

dative, and consequently will be found useful in mild cases of dysentery, relaxes, &c. attended with griping pains in the bowels. It may be administered either in the form of a powder or decoction: the latter is perhaps the preferable form.

Class 18. *Syngenesia*. Ord. 1. *Polygamia*
Æqualis.

B. N. *ARCTIUM LAPPA*.

C. N. *Burdock*. *Clot-bur*. *Hur-bur*.

Description.

This is rather an inelegant and unpleasant plant, both to the eye and the olfactories of the nose, having nothing attracting either in its appearance or odor. It, however, seeks out the richest uncultivated spots of ground, and there is to be seen growing luxuriantly. It may be found in most all parts of this country; and is so well known, as to render a particular description unnecessary.

Use.

The seed of the burdock, when given in infusion in boiling water, generally produces a free discharge of urine; and hence it has long been used in diseases of the kidneys and bladder, suppression and difficulty of making urine, and the like, and often with manifest benefit. Combined with cream of tartar, horse radish, &c. it may be given in some cases of dropsy with advantage.

The root possesses virtues similar to that of the seed, but in an inferior degree. It, however, possesses a property of which the seed is destitute; namely, that of producing a pretty free perspiration when given in warm decoction, and has therefore been given in rheumatism, gout, and the venereal disease. Some prefer it in those diseases even to sarsaparilla. In some of the Southern States the cold decoction is much relied on as a remedy in the cure of dyspepsy and indigestion, arising from a weakness of the stomach and bowels.



Cl. 13. Polyandria. Ord. 13. Polygynia.
 B. N. LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA.
 C. N. *Tulip Tree. White Wood, &c.*

Description.

This magnificent tree is the pride of the American forests, and one of the most grand vegetables of the temperate zone. It is remarkable both for the extreme height which it grows, and for the elegance of its large tulip-like variegated flowers. In favorable situations it grows from eighty to one hundred feet high, and from three to four feet in diameter. Michaux, however, states that he has seen some specimens that were one hundred and fifty feet high, and twenty-two feet in circumference. The external bark of the trunk is of an ash color; the inner bark is of a yellowish white. The bark of the young branches has a shining blue, or brown appearance. The leaves are broad,

smooth. Have two side lobes, and appear as if cut off at the end. The calyx is three leaved: the corol from six to nine petalled: the seeds are numerous, and contained in a kind of strobile. The flowers are very beautiful, and consist of a combination of yellow, orange, and lake green: they are expanded in May.

The tulip tree is not very abundant in the eastern part of the State of New-York: a few specimens, however, may be found in almost every piece of woods; but in some counties of the western part it is found in great plenty, generally out-topping all the trees of the woods, and making a grand and noble appearance.

Use.

The inner bark of the trunk and root of this tree is the part used in medicine: it is stimulant, tonic, and considerably aromatic. It may be used in indigestion, general debility, dysentery, &c. In intermittent and remittent fevers it has long been used with much benefit, and is, when combined with the bark of dog wood, (*Cornus Florida*), allowed to be equal to the Peruvian bark. Doctor Young has highly extolled the bark, in combination with laudanum, in consumption, especially those cases attended with hectic fever, looseness of the bowels, and debilitating night sweats. He effectually cured a Mr. Keiser, fifty years of age, of a catarrh of long standing, which was attended with dyspeptic symptoms, by the use of this bark. Thacher recommends it in the last stage of dysentery, and, when combined with steel dust, in dispespy and indigestion.

This bark is undoubtedly a powerful remedy, when combined with laudanum, in the hysterics and the summer complaint of children. It is also

an excellent worm medicine, and may be administered in all cases in which the pink would be indicated. I have frequently given it, and with much benefit; and I doubt not, if a decoction of the bark were given to children that are subject to worms once or twice a week, it would effectually prevent their generation and growth in the bowels. Worms are introduced into the bowels, while yet in the egg, or while of a very small size, with the food and drinks taken for nourishment. All substances, especially fluids, and the green-fruit of vegetables, are alive with minute animals, or the seeds of animals. Let the purest water that can be procured be placed under the magnifying-glass of the solar microscope, and it will be found to contain numerous small animals of the vermicular kind. These the naked and unassisted eye cannot see, and it is well that it cannot; for were it otherwise, we would dash the cooling beverage from our lips with horror, and almost sooner die than drink. Now, to prevent worms from getting into the bowels of children, is what we cannot do; but we may, by keeping the bowels in a proper tone and strength, prevent them from continuing and growing there; for this depends entirely upon their weakness and laxity. As, therefore, the bark of the tulip tree possesses a strong tonic power, as well as a principle poisonous to worms, it might reasonably be expected to answer the double purpose of destroying them and strengthening the bowels at the same time. This it certainly will do. It may be given in the form of powder, decoction, infusion, or tincture. The dose of the powder is from one to three tea-spoonsfull, frequently repeated. To powder this bark it must first be toasted a little over the fire. The dose of the decoction and infusion is about half a tea-cupfull. The decoction is frequently

given to horses to destroy the bots. The best time for taking the bark is in January.

Cl. 14. Didynamia. Ord. 1. Gymnospermia.
B. N. SCUTILLARIA LATERIFLORA.
C. N. Mad-dog Scull-cap. Hoodwort.

Description.

Scull-cap is found in moist, damp, and marshy grounds. The whole plant is of a deep green color. The root is fibrous and yellow. The stem rises from one to one and a half feet high, and is branched: branches and stem all four square. The leaves are egg-shaped, opposite, toothed, and supported on long foot-stalks. The flower-stalks are axillary; i. e. they arise from the stem at the place where the leaves are joined to it. The flowers are small, of a light blue color, and arranged in one-sided racemes. The calyx is two-lipped, and after the corol falls out, closes up, forming a seed-vessel of the shape of a helmet. It flowers in July.

Use.

Many persons have attributed to this plant almost miraculous powers in the cure of hydrophobia and the bite of serpents, and much has been said and published on the subject. Indeed, too much has been said in its praise; for the very encomiums which have been lavished upon it, have had the effect of bringing it into disrepute. That

it has cured mild cases of hydrophobia, supervening upon the bite of a mad or rabid animal, there are too many well authenticated cases upon record to permit us to doubt. But it is not from this to be supposed that it will cure every case of that terrific disease. Neither is it to be supposed that it possesses any powers materially different from other medicines of its class. The fact is, the whole plant is a powerful nervine, and has an operation upon the system similar to that of valerian, asafoetida, &c., calming nervous irritability, and relieving spasms. Now, hydrophobia is evidently a disease of the nervous system, and consists in a great degree of nervous irritability, manifested by impatience of light and sound tremors, and convulsions; and hence, any medicines that possess nervine and antispasmodic qualities, as valerian, scull-cap, and opium, are those best calculated to give relief, and will even succeed in curing some mild cases.

Thus it is, I think, that we are to account for the cures which scull-cap has undoubtedly effected of some mild cases of disease from the bite of mad animals. Other remedies, as asafoetida, valerian, opium, &c. possessing properties similar to those of the scull-cap, would, in all probability, have proved equally efficacious in every case cured by this plant, provided they had been as freely administered.

As to its powers in the cure of disease arising from the bite of poisonous serpents, I have little opinion. This disease is evidently one of the most inflammatory character, attended with great pain, tumefaction, and heat, and running fast into mortification. Of course, the powers of scull-cap promise nothing in this disease, requiring the most active, inflammatory remedies.

As a remedy in hysterics, epilepsy, and St.

Vitus' dance, it certainly promises to be useful, as well as in mild cases of hydrophobia; and I have lately been informed that a disease of the nervous character was cured by this plant after many other remedies had failed. To have any good effect, however, it should be given in large doses. It should be given in the form of powder, or that of infusion, in boiling water.

Cl. 2. Diandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.
B. N. ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS.
C. N. *Rosemary.*

Description.

This plant is not indigenous to the United States. It is, however, cultivated in our gardens, and thrives very well. It is a pungent and stimulating aromatic, possessing an unpleasant, bitter taste, and is so well known as to require no further description.

Use.

An infusion of the leaves and flowers of rosemary in hot water, if drank freely, will prove beneficial in colic, from wind in the bowels, and in some cases of hysterics and dyspepsy. As a remedy in the menstrual suppressions of women, it has long been used, and is certainly often of service. For such cases it should be taken in strong infusion for several nights in succession on going to bed.

The essential oil of rosemary, which is obtained by distillation, is a powerful stimulant. A few drops of it may be given to remove wind from the stomach and bowels, and for cramp in the stomach.

Cl. 18. *Syngenesia*. Ord. 1. *Pol. Aequalis*.

B. N. *LACTUCA SATIVA*.

C. N. *Common Lettuce*. *Garden Lettuce*.

Lettuce, so universally used, and so much admired, as a salad, in the spring and summer season, is too well known to require any description.

Use.

The whole plant at the time of flowering abounds with a milky juice, which, when collected and dried in the air, is found to possess the properties of opium, but in an inferior degree. It may be given in the dose of half a drachm in chronic rheumatism, gout, convulsive coughs, consumption, hysterics, and in all cases in which opium is admissible. A strong tea, made by infusing a quantity of the plant when in flower in boiling water, and freely drank, produces generally a free perspiration, and induces sleep.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 1. Pol. Δ equalis.
 B. N. LACTUCA ELONGATA.
 C. N. *Wild Lettuce.* *Fall Lettuce.*

Description.

This plant, belonging to the same class and order as the preceding plant, is found along fences, and in neglected grounds, in almost all situations. The stem is round, hollow, and smooth, and grows from four to eight feet high; very much branched at the top. The flower leaves are gashed, with the divisions inclined back towards the stem; the upper ones are lance-shaped and entire. The flowers are panicled, small, very numerous, and of a yellow color. It blooms from June till October.

Use.

The expressed inspissated juice of this plant possesses properties similar to that obtained from common garden lettuce. It is anodyne, and promotes the discharge of urine, and obviates costiveness. It is recommended in dropsies proceeding from obstructions in some of the internal viscera, particularly in dropsies of the chest, attended with a difficulty of breathing. In the whooping cough and asthma it has likewise been found serviceable. The dose of the expressed inspissated juice will be five grains, gradually increased to seventy or eighty. The extract, made by boiling a quantity of the plant in water to the consistence of molasses, makes an excellent black ink.

Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. LOBELIA CARDINALIS.

C. N. *Cardinal Plant. Red-flowered Lobelia.*

Description.

This is indeed an elegant and most beautiful plant, surpassing, by the multitude of its large scarlet colored flowers, many of the exotic plants so carefully cultivated in our gardens. In fact, there are but few flowers, either indigenous or cultivated, that can vie in external beauty with this little plant, whose numerous rich and elegant flowers excite the admiration and praise of every beholder.

It is found in marshes, damp meadows, on the banks of brooks and rivers, and in most damp and moist situations. The root is fibrous, of a whitish yellow color, and possesses an unpleasant and nauseous taste. The stem rises from one to three feet high, not branched, clothed with soft hairs, and terminated by numerous brilliant red colored flowers. The leaves are broad lance-shape, sawed on their edges, and of a bright green color. It flowers from July till September.

Use.

The root is used by the Indians, in the form of decoction, in worm cases, and is very highly esteemed. In this form, when given freely, it will sometimes operate as a laxative on the bowels. Having been but little used as a medicine, its properties are not yet ascertained: they are supposed, however, to be active.

Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 2. Digynia.

B. N. CHENOPODIUM ANTHELMINTICUM.

C. N. *Jerusalem Oak. Worm-seed Plant.*

Description.

This plant belongs to the same family as the common pig-weed, which is found so abundantly in rye, and corn-fields, in Autumn.

"Its favorite haunts are in loose soils, near rubbish and fences. It is not so common a plant, however, as some of the other species in the middle and northern States. To the south it appears to be frequent and abundant, and to acquire a greater size than here."* The stem rises from four to five feet high; is deeply grooved, and very much branched. The leaves are oblong, ovate, sessile, veined, alternate, and of a yellowish green color. The flowers are small, very numerous, and arranged on long leafless spikes. It flowers from July until the last of August.

In appearance it resembles the common pig-weed, (*Chenopodium Album,*) but grows much higher, and has a strong, disagreeable, aromatic smell.

Use.

The whole plant is a fatal poison to worms, in the stomach and bowels, of the human species, and has not, as far as I know, been used for any other purpose. The preparations of it used, are the expressed juice of the leaves; the seeds bruised, and made into a syrup with honey; a decoction of the leaves in milk; and an essential oil, obtained by distillation.

As the dose of the oil is small, (only six or eight

* Vide Barton's Med. Bot.

drops in a little milk,) it is generally used in preference to any of the other preparations of this plant. It should be repeated three times a day for three or four days, when some purge should be administered to evacuate the worms. In this way I have frequently given the oil, and have found it very beneficial; but it has occasionally failed altogether, and rendered a resort to pink-root necessary.

The dose of the expressed juice of the leaves is a table-spoonful twice a day on an empty stomach. The decoction is made by boiling a handfull of the leaves in a quart of milk: of this a wine-glassfull will be a proper dose.



Cl. 11. Dodecandria. Ord. 2. Digynia.

B. N. AGRIMONIA EUPATORIA.

C. N. *Agrimony.*

Description.

Agrimony grows in all parts of the country, and is found in almost all situations, damp or dry, but not in any great abundance in any place. The stem grows from one to three feet high, somewhat downy, and very much branched. The leaves are pinnate; the leaflets oval, gashed, and toothed on their edges, green above, but of a paler color beneath, and very rough to the feel. The flowers are small, numerous, and arranged on long spikes. The petals are five in number, and yellow. The fruit consists of a kind of burr,

similar to that of burdock, (*Arctium Lappa*,) but not so large. It flowers in July and August.

Use.

It is astringent and corroborant, and may be given in cases of bleeding from the lungs, nose, or any other part, and in mild cases of dysentery, &c. Some physicians believe it possesses strong deobstruent properties, and recommend it in obstructions of the liver, kidneys, &c. Two cases of enlarged and indurated liver are recorded by Chromal as having been cured by this plant. (See Salmon's Herbal, Art. *Agrimony*.)



Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 2. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *SOLANUM DULCAMARA.*

C. N. *Bitter-sweet.* *Woody Nightshade.*

Description.

Bitter-sweet is found in hedges, bushy fields, woods, &c. It belongs to the same family of plants as the common potatoe, (*Solanum Tuberosa*,) and is one instance among a few others that have been noticed of plants of the same genus differing greatly in their medicinal qualities. The stem is climbing, woody, and about the size of the finger. The bark, on being chewed, first causes a sensation of bitterness in the mouth, which, however, is soon followed by a sweetish taste, and hence it is that it has obtained the

name of bitter-sweet. The upper leaves are guitar-shaped; the lower ones cordate, and smooth. The flowers are few in number, and of a purplish blue. The corol is bell-form, with five lobes. The berries are red, and contain numerous seeds. It flowers in July.

Use.

The bark and the young branches and twigs of this plant are used in medicine. They should be gathered when the leaves are falling in the Autumn, and dried. When taken into the stomach, it promotes all the secretions, and manifests a slight narcotic power. It has been given in rheumatism, retention of the menstrual discharge in women, and in the itch, and other diseases of the skin. It may be given in infusion, or decoction. The latter is made by boiling one ounce of the young twigs newly gathered in two pints of water down to one. Of this the dose is half a teacupfull, in an equal quantity of milk, every four or five hours. Externally, the ointment made by boiling the twigs in lard, may be used to heal ulcers and cure eruptions of the skin.

The berries are very poisonous. Thirty were given to a dog: he soon became mad, and died in three hours. They have not yet been applied to medical use. (See Med. Dict. page 827.)

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. INULA HELENIUM.

C. N. *Elecampane.*

Description.

This plant grows from two to four feet high, and abounds most in clay soils, in stony and neglected fields, and along the road side. The leaves are large, egg-shape, clasping, and rough, and downy beneath, and from twelve to eighteen inches long. The flowers are large, and composed of tubular and ray florets, of a yellow color. The root is composed of large fibres, from the size of a goose quill to that of the little finger, and of a whitish color. It has an agreeable, aromatic smell, and a moderately bitter taste.

Use.

The root of elecampane is much used by many persons (made into a syrup with honey or sugar) in colds and coughs, and is very highly esteemed. In my opinion, however, the confidence they place in this root as an expectorant, is erroneous; and that the relief which is sometimes experienced, is to be attributed more to the honey or sugar with which it is administered than to any virtues of the root itself.

It is frequently given to horses that are troubled with the heaves; and I have myself given it, but without any beneficial effect resulting therefrom, or in the least relieving the cough. It is simply a weak stimulant, and tonic, and may sometimes prove serviceable in cases of debility.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. ERIGERON PHILADELPHICUM.

C. N. Scabious. Skevish.

Description.

This plant may, in general, be found wherever the daisy grows, which it a little resembles. The root is fibrous, and of a yellowish white color. The stem rises from two to four feet high; is very much branched at the top, and crowned with numerous small flowers. The leaves are radical and caudate. (See Outline of Botany for an explanation of these terms—page 25.) The radical leaves are long petioled, oblong, gashed, and toothed: caudate ones clasping, sessile, and generally narrow. The flowers are corymbbed and compound: the florets on the circumference of the flower are narrow, numerous, and white; those in the centre are yellow. It is perennial, and flowers in June, July and August.

Use.

This plant is a strong diuretic, operating upon the kidneys with considerable power, and greatly increasing the secretion of urine. It has been much used in gout, the gravel, and dropsy, and, according to the testimony of different physicians, with much benefit. “I once,” says Dr. Wistar, “attended a gentleman who suffered with gout and hydrothorax, (dropsy in the breast:) the squill produced great distress and pain of the stomach, and thus did more harm than good. This gentleman was greatly relieved by the infusion of scabious, which he took very freely.” (See Barton’s Med. Bot.) Dr. Physick, of Philadelphia, has recommended it in cases where there is a difficulty

of discharging the urine. In a case of this nature which came under my care, I administered this plant in strong infusion, and found it very beneficial.

This plant should be gathered for use while in flower, and carefully dried in the shade. It should be administered in the form of strong infusion, or decoction, and drank to the amount of two or three pints a day.



Cl. 5. *Pentandria*. Ord. 1. *Monogynia*.

B. N. *LOBELIA INFLATA*.

C. N. *Indian Tobacco*. *Emetic Weed*. *Lobelia*.

Description.

This species of the lobelia is found in almost all situations, but most abundantly on calcareous and saterile grounds, along the road side, &c. The root is fibrous, and yellowish white. The stem grows from one to two feet high: it is very much branched, and covered thickly with hairs. The leaves are egg-shaped, and notched on their edges. The flowers racemed, small, and of a blue color. The anthers of the stamens adhere together. The pericarps are inflated, and of the size of a white bean: they contain numerous small brown seeds. It is annual, and flowers in July. Every part of the plant has an acrid taste, like that of tobacco.

Use.

Indian tobacco certainly ranks among the most active plants of the United States. None, perhaps, have a more instantaneous and powerful operation upon the human system. However, since poisons, under proper management, are good medicines, this plant seems to have an undoubted claim to a place among the remedial agents used in the cure of diseases.

Its first operation, when taken into the stomach, is that of a powerful emetic, producing violent vomiting and a profuse perspiration, and followed by a considerable degree of weakness and exhaustion of the muscular powers. It should therefore be given with great care, and, in fact, can safely be prescribed only by a physician.

The diseases in which this plant has been principally used, are asthma, croup, and the whooping-cough; and in these it has been highly praised by several respectable physicians. The Rev. Dr. Cutler, of Massachusetts, states that he was effectually cured of an astmatic affection by taking a few doses of the tincture of this plant, that had resisted the remedies usually employed in such cases. Dr. Barton, of Philadelphia, relates a case of asthma in which he prescribed the tincture of this plant with decided good effect. He says—“I administered it to a domestic in my family who was distressingly afflicted with spasmodic asthma. She is a female of narrow and depressed chest, and for years past has been subject to this complaint. During one of the paroxysms, I directed her to take a tea-spoonfull of the brandy tincture every two hours. After taking the second spoonfull she was immediately relieved. In a subsequent attack the experiment was repeated, increasing the dose to a tea-spoonfull every hour,

and with the same effect—the patient declaring that she never found such immediate relief from any of the numerous medicines she had previously taken for this complaint. She complained of dizziness, nausea, and some debility after taking the second spoonfull, and told me she suspected the medicine administered to be tobacco." Doctor Eberle, likewise of Philadelphia, relates a case of croup which he cured by an infusion of the lobelia. The patient was a child of seven years of age. After bleeding freely from the arm, which gave no relief, he infused half a drachm of the plant in half a pint of boiling water; of which he gave the child a table-spoonfull every ten minutes until it vomited, which it did on giving the third spoonfull, when the disease immediately gave way, and a complete cure was effected without the use of any other medicine. (See Barton's Med. Bot.)

A few weeks since, I was called, at night, to see a child of about five years old. On visiting the little patient I found her laboring under a violent attack of the croup. I immediately bled her, by the application of leeches to the throat, immediately after which the child vomited, in consequence of having taken a dose of ipecacuanha previous to the application of the leeches. The loss of blood and the vomiting gave relief for an hour or more; but at the expiration of this time, the difficulty of breathing and distress returning, I applied a blister to the throat, and left her for the night. On renewing my visit the next morning, I found that, although the fever had abated, the hoarseness and the difficulty of breathing remained nearly the same. I immediately directed fifteen drops of a saturated tincture of lobelia to be given every quarter of an hour until it should vomit, which it did a short time after taking the third dose. Immediately after she had vomited, the diffiulty of

breathing gave way; and although the child remained somewhat languid for a few hours, a complete and rapid cure was effected.

From the experience I have had with this plant, I am inclined to believe that it is best calculated for those cases of asthma, croup, and whooping-cough that are of a spasmodic nature, and nearly unattended with inflammation. In such cases I consider it a powerful medicine, and one that will seldom fail to have a beneficial effect. But whoever depends upon it in cases of an opposite nature, must expect to be disappointed.

The dose of the leaves, ground into powder, is, when the intention is to vomit, from fifteen to twenty grains for an adult. The tincture is made by infusing two ounces of the leaves and capsules in a pint of proof spirits: of this tincture the dose is for an adult about two tea-spoonsfull; and for a child of four or five years, from fifteen to forty drops.



Cl. 12. Icosandria. Ord. 5. Pentagynia.

B. N. SPIRAEA TOMENTOSA.

C. N. Steeple-bush. Purple Hard-hack. Meadow-sweet.

Description.

This plant grows in low grounds, bog meadows, marshes, &c. The stem is of a woody nature, and attains the height of about eighteen inches or two feet; the bark is of a brown color; the leaves are lanceolate, serrate, and downy beneath; the flowers are in racemes, small, and of a red color;

calyx cut into five divisions; corol five leaved; stamens numerous; seed-vessel a capsule, and contains two or three seeds. It flowers in July.

Use.

Many physicians consider this plant as an excellent tonic and astringent—among whom is Professor Ives, of Yale College. It is recommended in all cases of weakness, relaxes, bleedings, the summer complaint of children, &c. The leaves and young branches are to be used, and may be given in decoction, infusion, or made into an extract.



Cl. 3. *Triandria.* Ord. 1. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *IRIS VIRGINICA.*

C. N. *Wild Iris.* *Wild Flag.* *Wild Lilly.*

Description.

Wild iris grows on the banks of brooks and rivers, in meadows, marshes, and all low and damp situations. The stem rises from one to two feet high: it is smooth and two edged. The leaves are ensiform; that is, long and narrow, and having the shape of a sword. The flowers are large, placed on the ends of the branches, and are blue, yellow and purple: the calyx is a spathe: the corol is six parted, and the divisions are alternate and reflexed: the stigmas are three in number, long, and petal-like. It flowers in June.

Use.

The root, the only part used in medicine, is white, and has a nauseous, bitter taste. It is a good purge, and may be given whenever a medicine of this class is required. The dose of the fresh root is about a tea-spoonfull: of the dried root a table-spoonfull.



Cl. 2. Diandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. *SALVIA OFFICINALIS.*

C. N. *Sage.*

Description.

Sage is a perennial plant, growing spontaneously in the southern parts of Europe, and cultivated in almost every garden in this country. The leaves are lance-ovate: the flowers are whorled and of a blue color: the calyx is two lipped: the corolla is ringent. It flowers in June. The whole plant has a peculiar smell; a strong, aromatic taste; and is considerably bitter and astringent.

Use.

Its virtues are similar to those of other aromatics, and reside mostly in the leaves, the only part of the plant used. It is stimulating and strengthening to the system, and possesses considerable carminative qualities. Hence, in wind colics, the belly-ache of children, hysterics, indigestion, and

weakness of the stomach and bowels, it may be administered with benefit. It should be administered in the form of fine powder, of which the dose is two tea-spoonsfull; or in infusion in boiling water and drank freely. A gargle for sore throat, the sprue, &c. is made of the infusion, by dissolving a small piece of alum or borax in it, and sweetening well with honey.



Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. GNAPHALIUM POLYCEPHALUM.

C. N. Sweet-scented *Life Everlasting*. *Balsam Weed*.

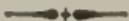
Description.

This plant, well known to many by the name of balsam weed, delights most in dry and arid situations; hence it is mostly found on uplands and hills, in neglected fields. It grows from twelve to eighteen inches high, and is covered with a white down, which makes the whole plant appear, at a distance, of a white color. The leaves are lance-linnear, sharp pointed and smooth. The flowers are compound, panicled, and of a yellow and white color. The whole plant has a taste a little bitter and somewhat oily, and a very pleasant smell. It flowers in July and August.

Use.

This plant, when given in the form of strong

infusion, will sweat freely; and in this way it is used as a domestic remedy by many families in colds, fevers, &c. and very frequently with much benefit. It certainly possesses expectorant powers; and a large bowl of the tea, taken on going to bed at night, will often give much relief from the distressing cough which generally attends common colds: Excepting catnep, no herb is more universally used as a domestic medicine than this.



Cl. 14. *Didynamia*. Ord. 1. *Gymnospermia*.

B. N. *NEPETA CATARIA*.

C. N. *Catnep*. *Catmint*.

This plant is too well known to require any description. A strong tea, made by infusing the leaves and flowers in boiling water, is a popular remedy for many diseases. When taken freely, it will remove wind from the stomach and bowels, and induce a perspiration. I do not know of a better remedy for the belly-ache of infants than this tea, sweetened with molasses; and I am satisfied, that if mothers were more in the habit of giving this tea to their children instead of dosing them with those poisonous substances, laudanum, paragoric, rum, and peppermint drops, they would be much more healthy, and far less subject to disease and pernicious habits.

Cl. 18. Syngenesia. Ord. 2. Polygamia Superflua.

B. N. *SOLIDAGO ODORATA*.

C. N. *Sweet-scented Golden-rod. Tea Plant.*

Description.

This not inelegant plant belongs to a very numerous family, which includes more than forty individual species. It is found in all parts, and delights most in dry and sandy soils. The stem rises from two to four feet in height, angular and furrowed, and covered with soft hairs. The leaves are lance-linnear and hairy on their edges. The flowers are numerous, small, and of a golden yellow color. It is a pirennial plant, and flowers in August and September.

Use.

The leaves and flowers of this plant are recommended in diseases of the urinary organs, as ulcerations of the kidneys and bladder, suppression and difficulty of discharging the water, &c. It is likewise said to be particularly useful in stopping a bleeding from the lungs and stomach. Professor Eaton, in his Manual of Botany, says, that "the flowers, dried so as not to be musty, make a pleasant tea, which is moderately astringent, and promotes perspiration."

Cl. 14. Didynania. Ord. 1. Gynospernia.
 B. N. VERBENA URTICIFOLIA.
 C. N. *Nettle-leaved Vervain. White-flowered Vervain.*

Description.

This plant is found growing around barn yards, old gardens, &c. The stem rises from three to five feet high, is four angled, furrowed, thickly covered with stiff hairs, and about half an inch in diameter. The leaves are ovate, serrate, sharp pointed at the apex, and supported on foot-stalks from one to two inches long. The flowers are white and small, and arranged on long slender spikes, that arise from the stem at the place where the branches and leaves are given off. The calyx is five parted: the corol funnel form, having the border five parted: stamens four. The root is fibrous, of a clay color, and has a bitter taste.

There is another species of the vervain, called the purple-flowered vervain—(Verbena Hastata.) It differs but little from the preceding except in the color of its flowers. Both species flower in August and September.

Use.

In former times vervain was believed by many to possess supernatural and miraculous powers in the cure and prevention of numerous diseases, as head-ache, the kings evil, &c. With this belief it was worn suspended about the neck as an amulet or charm.—(See Med. Dic.) At the present time, however, no such powers are attributed to it, as far as I know. The root is a mild stimulant, and tonic, and has, when freely taken, cured some mild cases of ague and fever. It may likewise be given to advantage in dispepsy, general weakness,

&c. It evidently possesses some anodyne powers, and may therefore prove beneficial in cases of hysterics and nervous head-aches. In the latter disease it should be applied, mixed with vinegar, to the temples at the same time that it is taken into the stomach. It may be given in the form of powder, in the dose of a large tea-spoonfull, or in that of infusion in boiling water.

Cl. 4. *Tetrandria.* Ord. 1. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *CORNUS FLORIDA.*

C. N. *Dogwood Tree.* *False Box.*

Description.

Dogwood is found in almost all our woods. It grows from eighteen to twenty feet high, and is very much branched. The leaves are ovate and pointed at the end. The calyx of the flowers is an involucre, and consists of four large white petal-like leaves, placed at the origin of the foot-stalks of the flowers; these are generally supposed to be the true flower leaves. The berries are red, and have the shape of an egg. It flowers in April and May. Dr. Barton says, that "some of our southern tribes were accustomed to name the spring from its flowering."

Use.

"The similarity," says Dr. Barton, "between the dogwood and the Peruvian bark, in their sen-

sible qualities, their chemical analysis, and their action on the incised dead fibre, sufficiently proves an identity in their medicinal effects."

Gregg says, "that he has used the bark of this tree for twenty-three years, during which time he found its virtues such as to convince him it was not inferior to the Peruvian bark in curing inter-mittents, nor inferior as a corroborant in all cases of debility."

The bark of the dogwood is extremely bitter, and is, without doubt, an excellent tonic and strengthening medicine, possessing likewise moderately stimulant and astringent powers. Hence it may be used with good effect in ague and fever, the last stages of remittent and continued fevers, in dysentery, indigestion, and general weakness, mortification, &c. and, in fact, in every case in which the Peruvian bark would be proper.

It may be given in the form of powder, of which the dose is about a table-spoonfull; in decoction and extract. The latter is made by evaporating a decoction of the bark down to a consistence proper for making into pills. These pills I have frequently used in cases of general weakness, loss of appetite, &c. and with manifest advantage. A fine black writing ink may be made from this bark by mixing the following ingredients, all previously well powdered:—half an ounce of dogwood bark, two ounces of copperas, four tea-spoonfulls of gum arabic, and half a pint of water.

Cl. 5. Pentandria. Ord. 2. Diagynia,
 B. N. HERACLEUM LANATUM.
 C. N. *Cow Parsnip.*

Description.

This not inelegant plant is found in meadows, on the banks of creeks, and in situations where the soil is rich and moist. The root is long, white, and fibrous, and possesses a strong odor, and a sharp, unpleasant taste. The stalk rises to the height of four or five feet, large, round, and hollow, and is covered with soft down, which is also found upon the leaves. The leaves are large, in threes, rough, and jagged. The flowers are small and numerous, and umbelliferous, like those of the common parsnip. It flowers in June.

Use.

Some physicians, among whom is Dr. Orne, highly recommend the root of this plant in epilepsy, hysteria, and other spasmodic diseases. In five cases of epilepsy which came under his care, three, he states, were cured by this root. In the hands of other practitioners, the root of this plant has manifested strong carminative powers, exerting its influence on the stomach and bowels, and has been found an efficient remedy in indigestion, flatulent and wind colics. The dose is a tablespoonfull of the root, finely powdered, three times a day. The leaves and tops should be taken at the same time in infusion in boiling water.

Cl. 10. Decandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. ARBUTUS UVA URSA.

C. N. *Bearberry. Piss Weed. Gravel Weed.*

Description.

This little plant is indigenous both to Europe and America. In this country it is found growing on mountains and rocky hills, in woods and in barren and sandy plains, beneath the thick foliage of shrubby pines. The stem is creeping, and from six to twelve inches long. The leaves are egg-shape, of a bright green above, but pale beneath, stiff and rough. The flowers are numerous and clustered together, and of a reddish white color. Corol five clest; stamens ten; pistil one. The flowers possess a most delicious fragrance, more agreeable to me than that of any plant I have ever met with. It is an evergreen, and flowers in May.

Use.

It is an astringent and tonic, and as such will be serviceable in weakness, laxity of the bowels, dysentery, &c. It also operates by increasing the discharge of urine, and has often proved beneficial in gravelly complaints. Hence it is called by some gravel weed.

De Hean and others have strongly recommended the bearberry in ulcerations of the kidneys and bladder. In weakness of the stomach and bowels, attended with looseness, I have prescribed it with success. In cases of dropsy, from weakness of the system, it will be a good medicine. It may be given in decoction or powder. A decoction may be made by boiling a handfull of the plant in a pint of water: of this the dose will be half a

tea-cupfull every three hours. The dose of the powdered leaves is from one to two tea-spoonsfull three or four times a day.



Cl. 5. *Pentandria*. Ord. 2. *Diagynia*.

B. N. *HEUCHERA VISCIDA*.

C. N. *Alum Root*. *American Sanicle*.

Description.

This plant grows in dry loamy soils, in wastes and uncultivated fields, along the sides of rocks, &c. The root is composed of a number of long brown fibres of the size of the finger, and has a very astringent taste. From the root arise several stalks, varying in height from one to two feet, nearly destitute of leaves, and terminated by a panicled inflorescence, similar to that of oats. The leaves are nearly all radical, and are heart-form, gashed, and downy beneath, and supported on long foot-stalks. The flowers are numerous, small, and of a red and yellow color. It blooms in May and June.

Use.

The root, the only part used, is powerfully astringent, from which circumstance it has obtained its name. When given in the form of powder, or boiled in milk, it will be found serviceable in the diarrheas and relaxes of children, and of adults also. Made into a gargle, it may be used as a wash in ulcerated sore throat, and will

prove beneficial. It is esteemed a valuable article in the Medical Catalogue of the Indians. They apply the root, made into an ointment, or in powder, to ulcers, cancers, &c. and it is said with considerable success.

Cl. 19. *Gynandria*. Ord. 6. *Hexandria*.

B. N. *ARISTOLOCHIA SERPENTARIA*.

C. N. *Virginian Snake Root. Birthwort, &c.*

Description.

The snake root is a plant found in almost all parts of the United States. The species belonging to this genus, or family, are very numerous, some of which very much resemble each other, both in their external appearance and in their sensible qualities; and it is therefore very probable that the virtues of many of the different species of the snake root are nearly the same.

The root of the Virginian snake root when recent, is of a yellow color; but on drying, it changes to a brown or black, and is then very brittle. It is wholly composed of small slender fibres. The stem is slender and weak, from six to ten inches high, jointed, of a purple color near the root, but yellowish above. The leaves are of a light green color, lance-heart shape, and supported on short foot-stalks. The flowers are solitary, and consist of one flower leaf, of a brownish color, without a calyx. The flower stalks arise from the root, and are very slender. The stamens grow out of the

stigma. The germ, or seed-vessel, is nearly eight square, and contains many minute flat seeds. It flowers in May and June.

Use.

The root of this plant is a sweating, stimulant, and tonic medicine, and has long been used in fevers with much advantage, especially those of the remittent and typhus character. When combined with the Peruvian bark, it has been much administered to brake the fits of the ague and fever, and has often proved an effectual remedy. It was once much used to cure the bite of venomous serpents, and much confidence placed in it, and from this circumstance it has derived its name; but at the present day it is not at all used in those cases.

It is undoubtedly a powerful anti-emetic, and will frequently check a vomiting and quiet the stomach when all other means fail. For this purpose it should be administered in cold infusion in doses of a table-spoonfull every fifteen minutes. It may be given in powder or infusion in boiling water. If the object is to produce sweating, it should be given in hot infusion, in the dose of half a tea-cupfull every hour. When its tonic or strengthening effect is wished, it should be administered in cold infusion, or in powder, of which the dose will be a small table-spoonfull, repeated as often as thrice a day or more.

Cl. 13. Polyandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. *PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM.*

C. N. *May Apple. Mandrake. Ducks Foot.*

Description.

This is indeed a beautiful plant, and well worthy a place in the garden of every family. It is not, however, very common in this district of country; but in some of the Southern and Western States it grows in great abundance. It is found mostly in rich and damp grounds, in woods and neglected fields.

The root is creeping, and frequently from three to five feet in length, and about the thickness of the little finger, and intersected about every six inches with joints, from which proceed numerous small fibres of a lighter color than the main root, which is yellow, and has a bitter and nauseous taste. The stem is round, of a yellowish green color, and from twelve to eighteen inches in height, divided about half way into two branches, each terminated by a large palmate leaf of six or seven lobes. The petals of the flowers are about nine in number, and white. The foot-stalk of the flower is given off at the fork of the stem, and is from one to three inches long. The fruit varies much in size in different situations; sometimes it is found as large as a good sized lemon; but its usual size is that of a very small one. When fully ripe, it is of a bright yellow color, thinly spotted with brownish dots, and contains about a dozen seeds. It may be eaten with safety, and many persons are very fond of it. It flowers in May, and ripens its fruit in August and September.

Use.

The root alone is used in medicine, and ought to be collected in September, dried, and pulverised. It is purely a cathartic, (purge,) and in the dose of a small table-spoonfull alone, or combined with calomel, or cream of tartar, will operate as effectually on the bowels as jalap. In fact, in some cases it seems to answer better even than jalap, not producing such a degree of nausea while operating as that frequently does. It is said by many physicians to answer particularly well in cases of dropsy, intermittent, remittent, and bilious fevers. The leaves of this plant are said to be poisonous.



Cl. 10. *Decandria.* Ord. 1. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *BAPTISIA TINCTORIA.*

C. N. *Wild Indigo.* *Indigo Weed.*

Description.

This luxuriant and beautiful plant is exclusively a native of North America, and is found in woods, and bushy and neglected fields, in dry and light soils. The root is composed of five or six long fibrous branches, of the thickness of the little finger, the bark of which is thick and fleshy, and of a yellow color. From the root arise from one to six stalks, and attain the height of from two to three feet, very smooth and round, and covered with numerous black spots. From the root, for more than half way up the length of the

stalk, it is leafless; but the remaining portion is very much branched, and thickly clad with innumerable small leaves. The leaves are obovate in shape, and placed in threes on the stem and branches. The flowers are of a bright yellow color; but change to black soon after being plucked. It flowers in July and August.

This is the plant that is frequently placed about horses in the summer to keep off the flies; and from this use to which it is applied, it is sometimes called horse-fly weed.

Use.

This plant has not long been introduced in the catalogue of medicines, and of course its virtues are not yet well ascertained. It is found, however, to possess cathartic and emetic qualities when given in large doses, and is much valued for its power of suppressing mortification and curing foul and indolent ulcers when applied to the diseased part in the form of a wash or poultice.

Dr. Thacher, speaking of this plant, says, that "in the hands of some physicians it is found to operate in large doses with much severity as an emetic and cathartic. But a weak decoction has frequently been given with the effect only of a mild laxative.* Dr. Comstock, of Rhode Island, highly recommends it in cases of mortification, putrid and typhus fevers, &c."†

It is now considerably used by many physicians, and is found to be very beneficial in the canker rash, typhus fever, and in the advanced stage of remittent and bilious fevers. Externally it is used, as has already been stated, in the form

* See Barton's Medical Botany.

† Vide the same.

of poultice, ointment, and decoction, in mortification, indolent and viciated ulcers, sore nipples, chronic sore eyes, the salt rheum, &c. When taken into the stomach, it should be in the form of decoction, which may be made by boiling an ounce of the fresh root in a pint of water: of this preparation a table-spoonfull every hour or two will be a proper dose. An ointment may be made of it by boiling some of the fresh root in lard for fifteen minutes, and straining. To every pound of this ointment two ounces of beeswax should be added, to render it of a more firm consistence.



Cl. 21. Dioecia. Ord. 5. Pentandria.
 B. N. *ZANTHOXYLUM FRAXINEUM.*
 C. N. *Prickly Ash.* *Tooth-ache Bush.*

Description.

This shrub is not very common in the Northern States of the Union; it may, however, be found in some neglected and marshy situations. In Pennsylvania and Maryland it is said to grow in the most abundance. It grows from four to eight feet high, and the bark is of an ash color, spotted here and there with white irregular spots. The stem and branches are all prickly. The leaves are pinnate, and the leaflets lance-oval, and nearly smooth on their edges. It flowers in May: flowers umbelled, and of a white color.

Use.

The bark and seed-vessels of the prickly ash have a hot, pungent, and acrid taste; and when chewed, promote powerfully the discharge of the saliva. Used in this way, they will sometimes relieve pain in the teeth.

In some parts the bark infused in spirits is used as a popular remedy in chronic rheumatism. This, however, is a very improper prescription; for spirits in any form is seldom admissible in this disease. The preferable way, therefore, to administer it, is made into a decoction. In the West Indies the decoction is used as a wash to foul and indolent ulcers, "which," says Thacher, (page 368,) "it powerfully cleanses and disposes to heal."



Cl. 12. Icosandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. PRUNUS VIRGINIANA.

C. N. *Wild Cherry Tree. Cabinet Cherry.*

Description.

The young branches of this beautiful tree are of a dark brown color, and dotted with small white specks. The leaves are oval, doubly toothed, and smooth. The flowers are small, numerous, and racemed. The berries are black when ripe, and possess the power of intoxicating certain kinds of birds. The wood is used in the manufacture of tables, stands, and other kinds of furniture. It flowers in May, and ripens its fruit in August.

Use.

The inner bark of this tree is bitter and astringent, and possesses also an aromatic warmth. It contains likewise in a small degree a narcotic quality, similar to that of the laurel, and which is now shown to depend on the presence of prussic acid. A strong decoction has been found useful in indigestion, dysentery, abcess of the loins, and consumption, attended with debilitating night sweats. It has likewise been used to destroy worms



Cl. 19. *Gynandria.* Ord. 5. *Pentandria.*

B. N. *ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA.*

C. N. *Butterfly Weed.* *Pleurisy Root.* *White Root.*

Description.

There is perhaps no genus or family of plants in the catalogue which contains a greater variety of beautiful specimens than the genus of milk-weeds.—(*Asclepias.*) The plant under consideration, the butterfly weed, is not the least comely of the individuals of this family, and indeed more richly deserves a place in our gardens than many that are so carefully cultivated there, being both ornamental and useful. It delights most in rich loamy and sandy soils, and is found in cultivated fields and dry meadows.

The root is very white and tubrous, and of the thickness of a common size beet root. From ten

to twelve stems arise from the root, and grow to the height of about three feet: they are terminated by a large number of thick-set yellow flowers. The leaves are numerous and lance-shaped. The flowers are umbelled and corymbed, and of a bright orange color. The whole plant is covered with rough hairs, very thickly set. It flowers in July.

Use.

A Mr. Thompson Mason was the first, it is said, who brought this plant into notice; he used it in pleurisy and other diseases of the lungs, and has very highly extolled it. His testimony of its good effects in these diseases has been corroborated by that of Dr. Parker, of Massachusetts. The Doctor, after an experience with it for more than twenty-five years, strongly recommends it in pleurisy, catarrhs, recent colds, and some kinds of inflammatory fevers, &c. (See Thacher.)

Its sensible effects on the system, when taken freely, are the production of a copious perspiration, together with a moderate cathartic effect upon the bowels. Two ounces of the root, when boiled in one pint of milk until the quantity is reduced one-third, forms a mild and gentle laxative for children, especially teething children: the dose is two table-spoonsfull thrice a day. The root, when taken freely in the form of strong decoction, is found to give relief in wind colics, the belly-ache of children, &c. It may be administered in the form of powder, in the dose of a drachm infused in a cup of warm tea, every two hours; or in decoction, or infusion, and freely drank.

Cl. 19. Gynandria. Ord. 5. Pentandria.

B. N. ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA. W.

C. N. Water Milk-Weed. Water Silk-Weed.

Description.

This plant is found growing on the banks of rivers and creeks, and abounds most in those spots of earth which have been lately formed by a deposit of the earthy particles contained in water. It may be found in abundance along the banks of the Shawangunk creek, near the village of Tuthill, in New Paltz township.

The root is composed of numerous long fibres, of the size of a large knitting-needle, and of a white color. These fibres have a bitter, acrid, and disagreeable taste. The stem rises from two to four feet high, branched, round, and of a yellow green color. The leaves are lance-shape, placed on opposite sides of the stem and branches in pairs of two, and supported on foot-stalks of about an inch in length. The flowers are umbelled, and of a red color, and appear in July.

There are two varieties of this plant, the *Glabra*, with stem, branches and leaves all nearly smooth—and the *Pulchra*, with stem, branches, and leaves hairy.

Use.

The sensible qualities of this species of the milk-weed are stronger than any of the common species of this numerous genus or family, and its medicinal virtues are supposed by many to be more active. The root, the only part used, is diuretic and slightly narcotic, calming, when freely given, nervous excitement, and producing an increased discharge of urine and perspiration.

Hence it will be found serviceable in dropsy, chronic rheumatism, common catarrhs, coughs, &c. Its effects upon the system are said to be similar to those of Seneca snake root, or of hops and guaiacum in combination.

It may be given in strong decoction, in the dose of a wine-glassfull; or in powder, in the dose of a large tea-spoonfull.

Cl. 13. *Polyandria*. Ord. 1. *Monogynia*.

B. N. *MACROTYS SERPENTARIA*.

C. N. *Bugbane*. *Cohosh*. *Black Snake-Root*.

Description.

This plant delights most in rich and damp situations in woods. It is by no means a common plant, and in some sections of the country is nearly unknown. In Smithfield, in Pennsylvania, I have seen it growing in abundance: I have likewise seen several specimens of it in the Shawangunk mountains, north-west of Springtown village, in this county.

The root consists of a tubrous portion, which is variously contorted, rough, and knotty, from which proceeds a number of short thick fibres. The whole is of a dark brown, or black color, and has a bitter and rather nauseous taste. From the root proceed from one to three stems, and grow to the height of from four to eight feet, round and smooth. The leaves are decompound: leaflets long egg-shaped, deeply gashed, and toothed on

their edges: flowers in spikes, numerous, small, and white: calyx four leaved: corol none. It flowers in July.

Use.

Cohosh root possesses evidently considerable anodyne powers; and when taken freely in the form of hot infusion, promotes perspiration and induces sleep. As a remedy in colds, common catarrhs, mild affections of the lungs, &c., there is perhaps no medicine superior to it. The Indians make great use of it in the preceding complaints, and their women take it during the period of parturition to accelerate the birth of their children. I have been credibly informed that a person afflicted with consumption found more relief from the distressing cengh which harassed him by chewing this root constantly than by any other medicine. A strong tea will cure mild cases of the itch, and prove useful in other eruptions.

It is best given in infusion, which may be made by infusing in a pint of boiling water a single handfull of the root. It should be drank freely.

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Cl. 19. Gynandria. Ord. 5. Pentandria.

B. N. ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA.

C. N. Milk-Weed. Silk-Weed.

Description.

This belongs to the same genus of plants as the

butterfly-weed and the water silk-weed. It seems to prefer a dry soil, but it flourishes very well in those of a very opposite nature. The root is long and slender, of the size of the finger, and of a white color. From one to two stems arise from each root, and grow to the height of from four to six feet, smooth, and somewhat four square. The leaves are opposite and lance-shaped, sharp at the end, and downy beneath. The flowers are umbelled, nodding, and of a whitish purple color, and sweet scented. It is perennial, and flowers in July. It produces large pods, of an oval shape, which contain the seed, and a large quantity of a cottony substance.

Use.

The root of this species of the milk-weed alone is used: it is stimulating, diuretic, and anodyne, and may be given in coughs and asthmatic affections, in dropsy, fever, &c. Dr. Richardson speaks very favorably of it in typhus fevers, especially when an anodyne and soothing medicine is wanted.

The root may be given in the form of powder and infusion: the dose of the powder will be about a tea-spoonfull every hour and a half, or every two hours: the dose of the infusion will be about half a tea-cupfull. The infusion is the best form for dropsies.

Cl. 21. Dioecia. Ord. 17. Monadelphia.
 B. N. JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS.
 C. N. *Juniper.*

Description.

This is an evergreen shrub, belonging to the same family of plants as the red cedar and the American savine. It is found in various parts of the United States, and grows mostly in woods and bushy fields. In the vicinity of this place (Dashville) I have found several large bunches of it, apparently in a thrifty state. It grows in bunches of fifteen or twenty stems, which are from three to four feet long, and of the thickness of the finger, and being widely spread at the top, form a kind of mat, from ten to twelve feet in diameter. The leaves are in threes, about half an inch long, of a dark green color above, and marked beneath with two white lines, running from the base to the apex. The point of the leaf is terminated by a sharp prickle, that penetrates the hand whenever the bush is laid hold of. The berries have a warm, pungent, sweet taste, and a strong but not disagreeable smell.

Use.

Every part of the plant may be used. It possesses stimulant, carminative, sweating, and diuretic properties, and will be useful in wind colics, putrid and scarlet fevers, dropsy, and suppression of urine, and the monthly return of women and girls. It should always be given in strong infusion; for by decoction, its powers are entirely destroyed.

The whole plant contains an aromatic oil, which may be obtained from it by distillation. This oil, known by the name of the oil of juniper, has the

virtues of the whole plant, and may be administered almost in every case in which the latter would be admissible. The dose is from five to ten drops. From the juniper, in warm countries, exudes a kind of resin, called sandarac, which is much used in the arts.

Cl. 21. Dioecia. Ord. 17. Monadelphia.

B. N. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA.

C. N. *Red Cedar.*

Description.

This tree sometimes rises as high as thirty or forty feet, but in general it is found from ten to thirty only. It flowers in May, and ripens its fruit in July and August. It produces numerous blueish berries, of the size of currants, which in New Jersey and some other States have been distilled into brandy—thus converting an innocent and refrigerant berry into an intoxicating spirit, which has nearly rendered our country a desolation.

Use.

The virtues of this tree are by no means well understood. It is supposed, however, and with much probability, to possess useful medicinal qualities. The leaves and young branches are the only parts used. When given in powder, or infusion, it increases the force of the pulse, produces slight perspiration, and evidently increases the discharge of urine. Hence it may be given in

cases of chronic rheumatism, and dropsy from debility, and will often prove a useful remedy. It is a popular remedy in some sections of this country in the disorders peculiar to women; and I am informed that it has proved effectual. It should be given in powder or infusion. The dose of the former is about two tea-spoonsfull. The latter may be drank freely. An ointment, made by boiling the leaves in lard, forms an excellent stimulating dressing for blisters, when the wish is to keep them discharging.



Cl. 20. Monoecia. Ord. 13. Polyandria.

B. N. JUGLANS CINEREA.

C. N. *Butternut.*

Description.

This tree belongs to the same genus of plants as the black walnut, (*Juglans Nigra,*) and bears considerable resemblance to it in external appearance, but differs from it in its medicinal properties. It is found in almost all parts of the United States. The bark and the shells of the nuts are used by many people to dye a brown color.

Use.

The extract made from the bark of this tree is an excellent purge, in the dose of fifteen or twenty grains, (about two tea-spoonsfull,) operating speedily and effectually, and without producing heat or irritation. It is considered by many phy-

sicians equal to jalap, and in some cases of dropsy and dysentery even preferable. Combined with calomel, it makes an excellent anti-bilious cathartic, well adapted to cases of remittent bilious fevers. During the Revolution in this country it was very much used and highly esteemed. The extract should be made from the bark in the month of June. It is made by slowly evaporating a strong decoction of the bark down to a consistency proper for making into pills. Great care should be taken that it is not burnt, otherwise its powers will be nearly destroyed.

Cl. 21. Dioecia. Ord. 5. Pentandria.

B. N. **HUMULUS LUPULUS.**

C. N. *The Hop. Hop-Vine.*

The hop is a perennial plant, flourishing well in this country even in its wild state, but still better when under proper cultivation. It delights most in dry and gravelly soils, and climbs sometimes to the height of thirty or forty feet. Description is not necessary.

Use.

It is an excellent bitter, tonic and anodyne; strengthens the stomach, alleviates pain, and increases the appetite. It has been found very efficacious in dyspepsy, indigestion, and weakness and laxity of the bowels. Possessing the power of alleviating pain, and disposing to sleep, at the

same time that it strengthens the system in general, it becomes a very useful medicine in hysterical cases of long standing, in which the constitution has become weak and irritable, as also in many other nervous diseases attended with debility. In cases of fever, where the patient is deprived of his natural rest, and wherein opium would be improper, it may be given, and will be found to have, in most instances, the desired effect. One of the Kings of England, after passing several sleepless nights and days, until quite exhausted, was laid asleep by means of a pillow of hops placed under his head. In this case opium had been used to no purpose.

The tincture is the form in which the hop has generally been administered. It may be made by infusing a large handfull of the blossoms in wine or spirits; of which the dose will be one or two tea-spoonsfull when given as a tonic. When, however, the object is to induce sleep, two hundred drops should be given.



Cl. 4. *Tetrandria.* Ord. 1. *Monogynia.*

B. N. *ICTODES FOETIDUS.*

C. N. *Scunk Cabbage.*

Description.

Scunk cabbage grows in meadows and in most low and damp situations in abundance. The root is composed of numerous fibres, of the thickness of a goose quill. The leaves are very large, and spring from the root. The flower is purple, and

appears in April. The whole plant gives off a peculiar fetid and disagreeable odor, resembling that of the animal vulgarly called scunk.

In collecting this plant great care should be taken to distinguish it from that called white hellebore, (*Veratum Veride*), as a mistake might prove fatal. This, however, is not difficult, the former being destitute of a stalk, while the latter has several springing from its roots, from one to three feet high.

The root of the scunk cabbage should be collected for use early in the spring or late in the fall; and after being well washed and dried, should be kept in tight bottles, well corked, for by keeping in the air, it loses very much of its strength.

Use.

That the root of this plant is a powerful anti-spasmodic, has long been the opinion of physicians; but still it has been but very little used by them till of late years. I am well satisfied, however, that it is an efficacious and safe remedy in various spasmodic diseases—such as asthma, the hysterics, some kinds of colic, and epilepsy. The Rev. Dr. Cutler, who was himself an asthmatic, states, that he found much relief from the use of this root after other powerful remedies had failed. A correspondent of the author of the American Dispensatory says, that “in one of the most violent hysterical cases I ever met with, where the usual anti-spasmodics and even musk had failed, two tea-spoonsfull of the powdered root in spirits and water produced immediate relief; and on repeating the trials with the same patient, it afforded more lasting benefit than any other medicine.”

In those spasms which affect the muscles of the belly in women at the period of child-bearing, and

which not only retard the labor, but create much unnecessary pain, a tea-spoonfull of the powdered root, given as occasion may require, will often give great and immediate relief. Some physicians recommend it even in rheumatism, gout, and dropsy. In gout of the stomach it will, especially when combined with laudanum, prove a useful medicine; but in rheumatism, particularly of the acute kind, it certainly cannot be of any benefit.

It should always be given in powder, with syrup, or with a mixture of molasses and water. The dose for an adult is a table-spoonfull; for a child a tea-spoonfull, repeated every two hours if necessary.



Cl. 13. *Polyandria*. Ord. 13. *Polygynia*.

B. N. *HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS*.

C. N. *Yellow Root*. *Orange Root*.

Description.

This plant grows in rich moist soils, in woods; and in low grounds, in swamps; and is said to abound in the greatest quantity west of the Alleghany mountains, and in Canada. In the vicinity of this village (Dashville) I have found several beautiful specimens of this plant; but in some parts of Pennsylvania I have seen it in great quantities.

The main body of the root is tuborous and knotty: from this proceed a large number of fibrous roots, of a yellow color. The stem rises from six to twelve inches high, is round and covered with short hairs. The leaves are palmate, have sawed

edges, four or five lobed, and but two in number, one on the extremity of each branch. The flower is white; the fruit red, and about the size of a strawberry. It blooms in May.

Use.

The medicinal virtues of this plant reside wholly in the root, which is intensely bitter, and of a bright yellow color, and when dry, very brittle, and consequently easily pulverised. It is a tonic bitter, and when taken by weak and debilitated persons, will increase the appetite, strengthen the stomach, and the system generally. I have used it in my practice, and think it equal in dyspepsy and some other diseases of debility even to Columbo root. In some parts of the country an infusion of this root is used as a wash for inflamed eyes, but with what success I cannot tell. It may be given in powder, of which the dose will be two teaspoonsfull; or in decoction, and drank at liberty.

Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 3. *Trigynia.*
 B. N. *Rhus Vernix.*
 C. N. *Poison Sumach.* *Poison Elder.*

Description.

This species of the sumach grows generally in low and damp situations, in meadows, swamps, &c. It rises from six to twelve feet high, and is very much branched. The leaves are pinnate. The

general foot-stalk long, round, and of a reddish color. The leaflets are arranged in about eight pairs, on each side of the general petiole; oval, smooth, and terminating abruptly in a point; dark green above, but of a paler color beneath. The flowers are small, of a yellow green color, and panicled, i. e. arranged like those of oats. The berries, when ripe, are of a yellowish white color, and each contain one flattish seed. It flowers in July, and ripens its berries in August.

Use.

This shrub belongs to the same class, order, and genus as the poison vine, (*Rhus Toxicodendron*), and possesses similar properties. The virtues of neither species, however, are, as yet, well understood. The one under consideration is found to possess active stimulant and narcotic qualities, and has been given in some cases of palsy, and in some diseases of the skin, with benefit.

Dr. Fresnoi has made several experiments with this plant in various diseases, and considers it a powerful and efficacious medicine. "A country woman," says the Doctor, "came to me in the month of July to consult me about the dry tetter, with which her face had been covered for more than a year. She was ordered to take an infusion of the plant; and in six weeks was entirely free from the disease."

He also relates five cases of partial palsy which were cured by the use of this plant, and the astonishing effects of the odor of the flowers in a case of epilepsy. He says, "a girl in Flanders, already subject to fits, laid down some flowers of this plant in her bed-room. Next day she told me that she had undergone a great change; that she had had no fits; and slept much better. It

occurred to me that the flowers occasioned this change. Next day, the flowers being removed, and the window opened, the convulsions reappeared: on their being again introduced, the fits disappeared, which proved plainly it was the effect of the flowers.

Of the extract of this plant, as a remedy in whooping cough, he speaks with great praise. He says, "the success of the extract of this plant in convulsive coughs exceeded my hopes—forty-two children being cured of this disorder, in Valenciennes, during the end of the year 1786. Four grains of the extract are to be dissolved in four ounces of syrup, of which one table-spoonful, given to the child every third hour, generally abates the cough, which soon mostly leaves them."

The extract may be made by boiling any quantity of the leaves in water for half an hour; after which the liquid is to be decanted off, and slowly evaporated in a large vessel to a consistence proper for making into pills.

Cl. 20. *Gyandria.* Ord. 13. *Polyandria.*

B. N. *ARUM TRIPHYLLUM.* L.

C. N. *Indian Turnip.* *Wild Turnip.* *Wake Robin.*

Description.

This plant is found in low, damp, and rich soils, in woods, wastes, and uncultivated grounds, and grows from half a foot to two feet in height. The leaves are in threes. The leaflets are egg-

shaped and pointed at the end. Flowers in a spadix, and of a purplish green color. The root is bulbous, of a white color, and very acrid to the taste, and in form very much resembles the common turnip. It flowers in May, and is as generally known as any indigenous plant of the United States.

Use.

There are two varieties of this plant—*atropurpureum*, having a dark purple spathe—and *virens*, having a green spathe. The root of each possesses similar properties, and may be indiscriminately used. It has been given in consumption, croup, hooping cough, and asthma, especially of old people, and is found serviceable in assisting the discharge of phlegm from the lungs, and relieving the difficulty of breathing. The virtues of the root depend wholly upon its acrimony; and as this is destroyed by drying, the fresh root should always be used. It may be administered by boiling one fresh root in three gills of milk, of which the dose will be a table-spoonful, repeated as often as necessary. The root, boiled in lard, forms a good ointment for scald head, and other scurvy eruptions about the head.

Cl. 6. Hexandria. Ord. 3. Trigynia.

B. N. **VERATRUM VIRIDE.**

C. N. *Itch-weed.* *Indian-poke.* *White Hellebore.*

Description.

This active plant is found mostly growing in meadows and low damp grounds in many parts of the United States. The stalk rises to the height of two feet or more; very leafy, and terminated by numerous small green flowers. The leaves are large, broad egg-shaped, plaited, and full of nerves. The flowers are in racemed panicles. Each flower has six flower-leaves, of a greenish color, but no calyx. The seed vessels are three in each flower, and contain numerous seeds. The flowers appear in June. The root consists of numerous fibres, of a white color.

Use.

The virtues of this plant are by no means well understood: it is well known, however, to possess very active powers, and ought never to be given internally, but with great care. The root, the only part used, when taken to the amount of from a half to a tea-spoonfull, vomits and purges severely; but when administered in doses of from one to four grains, it has been found serviceable in rheumatism, gout, and the kings-evil. In worm cases it has often proved very efficacious; and children may take from one to three grains of the root in powder, mixed with syrup, three times a day with safety; after which it should be discontinued, and a dose of calomel and jalap or some other active purge administered, to evacuate the bowels.

Externally, the root of this plant, made into an

ointment, has long been used in the itch, and other diseases of the skin: hence it has got the name of itch-weed. An ointment may be made of it by boiling a handfull of the root in a pound of lard, and straining. If to this ointment a little sulphur is added, it will render it more effectual.

It is a powerful errhine, and a little of the powdered root snuffed up the nose will induce frequent sneezing; and in this way will be found to relieve a cold in the head, by increasing the discharge of mucous from the nose.



Cl. 14. *Didynamia*. Ord. 1. *Gymnospermia*.
 B. N. *MENTHA PIPERITA*.
 C. N. *Peppermint*.

Description.

Peppermint is not indigenous in the United States, but is cultivated in our gardens. The leaves have a strong, but not disagreeable smell, and an intensely penetrating aromatic taste, resembling, in some measure, that of pepper, which is followed by a feeling of coldness. The stem is smooth; the leaves are subovate, petioled, and nearly smooth; the flowers are small, numerous, of a purple color, and arranged on long spikes; the corol is monopetalous, having the border five cleft. It flowers in August.

Use.

Peppermint contains an oil, and a substance like camphor, both of which may be obtained from it by distillation. The essence is made by distilling the plant in proof spirit. Either the oil, the essence, or the plant, made into a strong tea, may be used: they possess similar properties, differing only in the degree of strength. They may be given in all cases in which a strong carminative and stimulant is wanted; in colic, from wind; cramp of the stomach, hysterics, and nervous agitations. The dose of the oil is five or six drops; of the essence fifteen or twenty; and of the infusion almost any quantity.

Cl. 21. *Dioecia.* Ord. 13. *Polyandria.*

B. N. *POPULUS TREMULOIDES.*

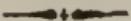
C. N. *White Poplar.* *American Aspen.*

Description.

This tree is found in almost every piece of woods. The stem is generally very straight, and the external bark is of an ash color, spotted with irregular white patches. The leaves are heart-form, serrate, smooth, and supported on long slender foot-stalks, the weakness of which causes the leaves to take a tremulous motion from every breath of air. The wood of this tree is made into troughs in many parts of this country, and used to catch the saccharine juice of the maple as it falls from the tree. It flowers in April.

Use.

The inner bark of the root and trunk is the part mostly used in medicine. It is an excellent bitter and tonic, and will as speedily cure the ague and fever as the Peruvian bark itself. In the last stages of typhus and other fevers, weakness and general debility, and in every case in which a strengthening medicine is required, it may be given, and will prove serviceable. A decoction of the bark, rendered sour by the addition of a few drops of the oil of vitriol, will strengthen the stomach, and increase the appetite. It is best administered in decoction, which may be made by boiling a small handfull of the inner bark in a pint of water, of which half a tea-cupfull will be a proper dose. In some parts it is given to horses to increase their appetite, and is said to answer the purpose well.



Cl. 9. Enneandria. Ord. 1. Monogynia.

B. N. LAURUS SASSAFRAS.

C. N. *Sassafras.*

Description.

This tree grows in woods and neglected and bushy fields. It belongs to the same family of plants as the spice bush, (*Laurus Benzoin,*) and the tree which produces camphor, (*Laurus Camphoratus.*) It seldom attains to a greater height than twenty feet, and in general is found from eight to twelve only. The root is of a rusty white

color, and has a sweetish, aromatic, penetrating taste, and a strong but not unpleasant smell, similar to that of the seeds of fennel. The leaves are about three lobed, and smooth. It flowers in May.

Use.

The root of the sassafras tree contains a large proportion of volatile oil, which may be obtained from it in large quantity by distillation. This oil is heating and strongly stimulating. It may be given, in the dose of five or six drops, in cramp of the stomach, to remove wind from the bowels, &c.; and it is said, that when applied to wens, it will prevent their growth, and sometimes even remove them entirely. The infusion of the bark of the trunk makes a pleasant drink in fevers.

Cl. 14. *Didynamia*. Ord. 1. *Gymnospermia*.

B. N. *LEONURUS CARDIACA*.

C. N. *Motherwort*.

Description.

This plant is found in rich soils, growing to the height of two or three feet. The stalks are four square and hollow. The leaves are spear-shaped, opposite, toothed, and three lobed. The flowers are in thorny whorls, of a purple color within, and white without. There are two leaves to each whorl. The whole plant has a strong, unpleasant

odor, and a bitter taste. It is perennial, and flowers in July.

Use.

Although this plant is but little used by physicians, its medicinal virtues are by no means undeserving of notice. It possesses, in a small degree, an anodyne principle; and when taken freely, calms the mind and disposes to sleep. It has been found to induce sleep when even opium had failed. It may therefore be given in hysterical and nervous diseases with a prospect of advantage. It is likewise strengthening to the system, and may be given in many cases of general weakness, loss of appetite, &c. It should always be given in the form of powder, or strong infusion in boiling water.



Cl. 5. *Pentandria.* Ord. 5. *Pentagynia.*

B. N. *ARALIA NUDICAULIS.*

C. N. *Wild Sarsaparilla.*

Description.

This plant grows on mountains and in hilly woods. The root is long, of the size of the finger, and externally of an ash color. The stem grows about six inches high, is small, round, and divided at the top into three branches, each bearing five leaflets. The leaflets are oblong-oval. The flowers are umbelled and white: calyx five parted: flower leaves five: scape naked. It is perennial, and flowers in May.

Use.

The root is the only part used, and this is evidently much more powerful when recent than when dry. It operates, when taken into the stomach, by promoting perspiration and increasing the discharge of urine. It may be given in some kinds of dropsy, and in rheumatism. It will also be found a good restorative after a course of mercury. It should be given in strong decoction, and drank freely.

N. B. Considerable pains have been taken to have the typographical execution of this work as correct as possible; but still several errors have escaped detection. Most of these, however, are of minor importance. The only one likely to mislead, will be found on page 34, line 21, where the word *wine* ought to be *urine*.

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